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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 43

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2012

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support the creation of a Criminal Offender Registry that will track convicted felons in the CNMI?

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ASIA



South Korea conducts live-fire military drills despite North's threat to attack.

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The U.S. and Britain urge Israel not to attack Iran's nuclear program.

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LIFE & STYLE



Whitney Houston is laid to rest at a brief private ceremony in New Jersey.

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Tinian mayor to DoD: Use leased land or give it up. **PAGE 5**

CNMI workers get 'tax' present

» **2 pct. cut in Social Security tax through 2012**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Employees in the CNMI are among the 160 million workers in the United States that will benefit from an extended 2 percent Social Security payroll tax cut that Congress voted with rare speed on Friday and is expected to be signed by President Barack Obama soon.

See WORKERS on Page 4

6 lawmakers' trip paid for by Taiwan govt

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Taiwanese government, through the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam, paid for the Taipei trip of six lawmakers led by House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), who are now back in the CNMI.

The trip enabled three senators and three House members to visit facilities focused on research and development, agriculture, tourism, and trade.

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CLARISSA V. DAVID

Tinian's Celina King sweats profusely as she chews the famous local pepper *donni sali* for the female division of the hot pepper eating contest, one of the main attractions of the 8th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival held at Tachogna Beach on Feb. 18 and 19.

Hot pepper festival heats up Tinian

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The island community of Tinian ramped up the blistering summer heat with the eighth staging of the increasingly popular annual Tinian Hot Pepper

Festival on Feb. 18 and 19.

Tinian's Tachogna Beach was ground zero for both residents and visitors alike who all descended on the beach to take part in the celebration of the island's spiciest trademark, the *donni sali*.

Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz led this year's festivities that saw not just Chinese and Japanese tourists but also sightseers from Saipan, Rota, and Guam checking out the weekend's parade of zesty chow, great live enter-

See HOT PEPPER on Page 4

PH's TV station covers arrival of Romero's remains

» **Probe enters third week, still no arrest**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

One of the top news programs in the Phil-

ippines, ABS-CBN's TV Patrol, covered the arrival of the remains of slain bartender Emerita "Emie" Romero at the Manila international airport Saturday night.

This developed as the authorities' investigation now enters its third week, with still no arrest made.

TV Patrol Weekend showed footage of Romero's remains being taken to a van at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal I. In the van was a man, said to be either Romero's husband or brother Eduardo Relata, partly covering

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Local

Wilshire's new contract finalized on Friday

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A new contract between the NMI Retirement Fund and Wilshire Consulting Associates was finalized and executed on Friday, according to Wilshire managing director Maggie W. Ralbovsky yesterday.

That means Wilshire is officially back on board as the Fund's consultant, allowing the Fund to wade back into the investment market. The lack of an investment consultant has been holding the Fund back from making major decisions on its market portfolio.

Ralbovsky confirmed that she would be visiting the island before the end of this month to

meet with the board of trustees.

Saipan Tribune learned that Wilshire's contract was sent to the company last week following a review by the Office of the Attorney General.

"Wilshire Associates is delighted to be working once again with the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees and its hard working staff. Once the matter that forced us to resign was resolved, we agreed to once again work with the board and staff," Ralbovsky's email stated.

In fact, she said, Wilshire voluntarily offered to cut its annual fee by \$30,000, knowing the severe financial challenges facing the board, staff and current and future retirees.

Wilshire's original contract

when it was hired in October 2010 amounted to \$195,000 per year. The newly executed contract is for \$165,000 per annum.

"Additionally, in anticipating the increasing importance of the defined contribution plans [DC plans] for the future retirement security of the workers of the CNMI, Wilshire also agreed to include assistance to the DC plans in the contract," she added.

According to Ralbovsky, Wilshire "appreciates the opportunity to work once again with everyone at the Fund and look forward to assisting the board and the staff as they take on the monumental challenges the financial situation of the Fund presents to them."

Once on island, Ralbovsky is expected to discuss with the board what to do with the Fund's portfolio, which was valued at \$255.7 million as of Jan. 31: \$105 million in CDARS and \$145 million in mutual funds.

Wilshire terminated its services with the Fund in October last year following the enactment of the Beneficiaries' Derivative Act, which was seen as increasing the company's exposure to litigation. That law has since been repealed.

The board has put on hold the hiring of money managers until Wilshire is officially on board. The Fund's money managers also left because of the impact of the then derivative law.

120 instead of 75 for Interior-funded grants workshop

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

From an initial cap of 75, the number of those who registered for a comprehensive grants workshop that starts today surged to 120 and others may still be on a waitlist, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday.

"It shows that people here have seen the importance

of having increased knowledge of federal grants which now exceed the local budget. Without federal grants, the CNMI would not have been able to fund a lot of programs and services. We are very happy with the number of participants and we had to cap it to 120 because we could only accommodate so many people," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview.

In fiscal year 2010, the federal grants the CNMI received totaled \$190 million. Sablan said the total, audited federal grants to the CNMI for fiscal year 2011 has yet to be known.

The CNMI's local revenue available for government operations is \$102 million in fiscal year 2012. The previous year's was \$122 million.

"Federal grants have exceeded local revenues [for govern-

ment operations or budget], and they continue to be an important source of funding for the CNMI. That's why people here in government and private sector need to know how to identify, apply for, and manage federal grants that Congress makes available to us," Sablan added.

Sablan is hosting the comprehensive grants workshop funded by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs. The workshop is provided free of charge to participants from the public and private sectors.

The workshop starts today from 7:30am to 11:30am in Room D-1 of Northern Marianas College in As Terlaje.

It is a series of eight half-day classes over two weeks. The first four classes are from Feb. 21 to Feb. 24 and the second four classes are from Feb. 27 to March 1. Classes run from 7:30am to 11:30am each day.

People from Rota and Tinian will also be able to participate through videoconferencing technology, Sablan said.

Sablan thanked Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta for funding the workshop, NMC president Sharon Hart for providing the classroom for the workshop, and Charles Hester, who will conduct the workshop, and others supporting the event.

Hester, a certified public accountant who has extensive federal experience with grants and audits, will conduct the workshop under the auspices of Graduate School USA, one of the federal government's continuing education providers of choice.

Topics covered will include planning, obtaining, and successfully completing grants and contracts; administrative requirements and cost principles for grants and other agreements; and effective fiscal management of grants.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

J Golf TV to Air Championship Filmed in Saipan



In a move to increase awareness of golfing in Saipan, Korean golf TV channel J Golf TV visited the island in January 2012 to film the "IBK Cleveland Rookie Golf Championship" held at Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

The championships episodes will air over 11 weeks beginning in late February and bring over \$20,000 of ad exposure to the Northern Mariana Islands.

J Golf is a cable television network launched in January 2005 by JoongAng Media Network, which holds diverse publication rights in daily newspapers such as Newsweek Korea and Forbes Korea.

The championship shoot featured 16 golfers and 10 film crewmembers. The media FAM(iliarization) tour was supported by Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Hotel Rivera, and the Marianas Visitors Authority.



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Effort to rename NMC draws strong opposition

» ACCJC discourages substantive changes during probation status

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Majority of students of the Northern Marianas College are opposed to a plan to rename the institution after former CNMI governor Carlos S. Camacho, based on the results of a survey conducted by the Associated Students of NMC and the office of the college president.

In his presentation to the Board of Regents on Thursday, external relations office director Frankie Elliptico said an "overwhelming majority" of the survey respondents were not receptive to the idea of renaming the college.

House Bill 17-41, which proposes to rename the institu-

Borja, PSS fail to reach accord in 2-year-old EEOC complaint

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

More than two years later, the complaint filed by former education commissioner Dr. David Borja with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission against his successor, Dr. Rita A. Sablan, remains unresolved after the failure of both parties to reach a settlement.

Borja confirmed the status of his case with the *Saipan Tribune* in an email yesterday, saying he intends to pursue and continue his fight.

Borja was fired by the Board of Education in June 2008. He then served as a classroom teacher for Marianas High School until 2010. He is now based in Gloucester, Virginia.

Borja filed the EEOC complaint against Saipan after the latter denied him some benefits that he believes are rightfully due him.

Borja, who was first hired as a classroom teacher for the Public School System in July 1994, was an off-island hire who came to the CNMI from St. Louis, Missouri. At that time, he was entitled to housing allowance and repatriation ticket. When he left the commissioner's office in June 2008, he was immediately hired as a classroom teacher at Marianas High School and his two-year contract expired in September 2010.

Borja claims that his contract stipulates that "upon renewal of an excepted services employment contract, all repatriation benefits stipulated under Section 8 of the condition of employment in this contract shall be carried over into the renewed contract until such time that the employee is officially terminated from the PSS."



Borja

tion to the Gov. Carlos S. Camacho Northern Marianas College, is currently pending at the Legislature. It was authored by House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan). This bill is identical to a measure that was first introduced in the 16th Legislature but was not acted upon.

"The president [of the college] and the Associated Students of NMC did the survey among students and received a wide number of participation. Overwhelmingly, the students opposed the idea of renaming the college," said Elliptico.

The board deferred taking up any position on the bill following opposition by regent William Torres.

According to Elliptico, the survey was conducted when

the college was first asked to comment on the same measure in the 16th Legislature.

He said many of the respondents questioned the necessity of giving the college a new name after many years of existence under the name NMC. Also, many of the students did not know the former governor. Also, many were concerned about the costs associated with the name change, which would require changing signages and logos, among other things.

Elliptico said there was a popular recommendation to just dedicate a building after the former governor in recognition of his contributions

as a pioneer in the creation of the college.

Board chair Juan T. Lizama expressed his support to just dedicating a facility but not renaming the institution as a whole after the former official.

William Torres, for his part, conveyed his support for the bill, citing Camacho's big contributions to the college. Despite understanding some of the "practical difficulties" in the name change, Torres said it is just proper to rename the institution after the former governor.

Torres said that when he was still a lawmaker, he introduced a similar bill, describing Camacho as someone who "single-handedly" developed

and established the college at a time when the Legislature was opposed to it.

"To me, people that are opposed to renaming this institution are the people that are ignorant of the history of this institution. I think it is incumbent upon us to educate our kids as to who the leaders are," said Torres.

Galvin Deleon Guerrero, the college's accreditation liaison officer and director of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, told the board that the accrediting commission has "discouraged" NMC from making any substantive changes during the college's probation status.

According to NMC presi-

dent Sharon Y. Hart, any change can only be allowed once the college is lifted from its probation status. NMC has only until October this year to fully address all commission concerns. Failure to do that will result in the termination of its accreditation.

To avoid further arguments, Lizama referred the matter to the board's program committee for review and recommendation.

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LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

"from which the CNMI can learn from and benefit," they said.

They said they also met with key Taiwan government and private sector officials who could help the CNMI in its own economic development.

Besides Cabrera and Manglona, the four others who went to Taiwan were Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

Palacios and another lawmaker who was also part of the group separately dismissed allegations that their all-expense paid trip violates ethics rules and other statutes.

Palacios said even before he accepted the invitation, he contacted the Office of the Public Auditor for guidance on whether participating in the trip will violate ethics and other laws. He said an OPA official told him that it won't, "as long as we don't make any promises" to anyone.

Another lawmaker who spoke on condition of anonymity said OPA had previously told him the same, adding that as long as lawmakers do not pass legislation that will benefit a particular company or entity and that they disclose the trip to the public, then there is no ethical violation for accepting the invitation.

He also said that the Taiwan trip was paid for by the Taiwanese government, not by a private investor on Taiwan.

Public Auditor Michael Pai, when asked for comment, said, "OPA would need to analyze all the pertinent facts before commenting."

He also said "OPA has not received any complaints on this matter."

Palacios and the other lawmaker said the trip was an "eye opener," considering that the CNMI could learn from Taiwan's successes in research and technological advances.

WORKERS

From Page 1

The extended payroll tax cut and jobless benefits are part of a \$143 billion measure that Congress passed and boosts Obama's jobs agenda.

Under the measure that Obama pushed for, workers would continue to get a 2-percentage point increase in their paychecks and people out of work for more than six months would keep jobless benefits averaging about \$300 a week. It would also head off a steep cut in reimbursements for physicians who treat Medicare patients.

For a worker earning the CNMI minimum wage of \$5.05 an hour, the 2 percent cut in Social Security tax is about \$16 that won't be deducted from one's payroll each month.

"That \$16 may not be enough for those who earn a lot, but for minimum wage workers, that \$16 can already buy a 25-lb. sack of rice that could last a month and the change could be for butane gas for cooking," said Rene Reyes, founding president of the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd. or Mahal.

Reyes is among the thousands of Filipino and Korean workers under the transitional worker program in the CNMI that are now subject to Federal Insurance Contribution Act taxes.

This means Filipino and Korean

workers now also have to pay Social Security and Medicare taxes, like all other workers in the CNMI do.

Reyes said that while Filipino and Korean workers would like continued exemption from FICA taxes, a 2 percent tax cut at this time would still be a big help.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) separately welcomed the tax cut. "The CNMI has a mirror tax system to that of the U.S. so the 2 percent Social Security tax cut will be applicable to us."

"It will be a relief for all of us in light of the increased fuel prices at the pump and utilities," he added.

Pump price of regular unleaded gasoline on Saipan is now \$5.059 a gallon, matching the CNMI's hourly minimum wage. On Rota, gas prices are \$6 to \$6.80 a gallon and are the highest among U.S. states and territories.

A minimum wage earner in the CNMI pays over \$45 a month in Social Security and Medicare. Because of the 2 percent tax cut, employee's FICA contribution will be 5.65 percent of their salary, instead of 7.65 percent.

The 2 percent tax cut was supposed to expire this month, but the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives passed a bill on Friday that would extend it.

The FICA deduction consists of 4.20 percent for Social Security, and 1.45 percent for Medicare. This is also on top of the CNMI taxes that workers in the Commonwealth pay.

Cultural Office in Guam.

The CNMI lawmakers met with Taiwan Council of Agriculture consular Ming Lai Wang, as well as Richard Tsai, a member of the Advisory Committee on Taiwan External Trade Development Council.

They also met with Bruce Linghu, director general of Taiwan's Department of North American Affairs under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and former ambassador to the Marshall Islands.

The CNMI team also met with Sophia Yeh, general secretary for Taiwan Visitors Association.

One of the CNMI lawmakers said they also met with Mark Tsui, assistant manager for China Airlines' International Affairs Department under Corporate Development; Chang-Ren Sei, vice president of Taiwan Power Co.; Helen Hwang, commercial section chief of the American Institute in Taiwan.

"We will connect our Marianas Visitors Authority's Perry Tenorio with the officials we met on Taiwan who are knowledgeable about tourism. China Airlines could plan direct flight to Saipan. This is just one of the partnerships we could develop to benefit the whole of CNMI," the lawmaker said.

The CNMI lawmakers also met with Taichung City Government Deputy Mayor Chia-Chi Hsiao and some city council members.

"So overall, we met with key people in agriculture, tourism, trade, airline, research and development, high-technology industries," one of the lawmakers said.

The senators left the CNMI ahead of the House members. The official trip to Taiwan was from Feb. 15 to 18. The lawmakers returned to the CNMI on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is in the U.S. for a series of meetings and events in California and Washington, D.C. He won't be back until March 5.

For employers, FICA tax is almost \$62 a month in employer's share for every employee required to pay FICA taxes. Employer's share is 7.65 of the employee's salary: 6.20 percent for Social Security and 1.45 percent for Medicare.

The FICA tax payments mean that a business with 15 workers earning minimum wages, for example, will incur an additional expense of over \$24,000 a year.

"We are still hoping that the federal government would change their decision on applying FICA on Filipino and Korean workers," Reyes added.

The CNMI government sued the U.S. Department of Treasury and U.S. Internal Revenue Service in January to stop the imposition of FICA on Filipino and Korean workers with Commonwealth-only worker status.

Many employers of Filipino and Korean workers in the CNMI have started deducting FICA taxes from their workers' payroll, while others said they will start in March regardless of the release of the actual CW status from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Taxpayers in the U.S. and the CNMI have grown accustomed to the 2 percentage point cut in the payroll tax over the past year, and that will be continued once Obama signs the tax cut bill.

The tax cuts, jobless coverage, and higher doctors' payments will all continue through the end of the year.

HOT PEPPER

From Page 1

tainment, fun games and other exciting activities.

Other government officials, including acting governor Eloy S. Inos and CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) also made their way to Tinian to grace the 2012 celebration which, save for some power outages that caused program glitches, was a roaring success.

Making its debut this year was the Pika Festival Fun Bike Ride, which had some 60 biking aficionados from Tinian and Saipan hitting the road and trails to check out what Tinian has to offer. These bikers arrived on island via the charter boat ride of *Stars and Stripes* and began their cruise at about 10:30am.

An hour later, some 20 members of the Marianas Sailing Club arrived on their three 25-footer sailboats after a six-and-a-half-hour voyage. The group held a free sailing clinic for the public in conjunction with the festival.

Among the featured presentations at the festival were the Tinian High School JROTC, Tinian Elementary School students, Tao Tao Taga Cultural Dance group, stand-up comedy acts, Hapi D' Clown, and Tinian High School students.

The annual festival also featured 19 booths selling thirst-quenching beverages and popular island dishes such as chicken kelaguen, fajitas, barbecue chicken and spare ribs, fried spring rolls, among others.

Sixteen competing booths were judged on Saturday morning for the best decorated booth contest on based on the use of natural resources and recycled materials, degree of exerted effort for the design, and the overall attractiveness. The winners were E&L booth, first place, \$100; Neng Snack Mobile, second place, \$75; and Sanchez Pastries, third place, \$50.

There were also informational booths, including the Northern Marianas College and the NMC-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services.

Both NMC-CREES and the Cattlemen's Association of Tinian sponsored catch-an-animal contests that gave away chickens, pigeons, and piglets to children who snagged the animals inside the livestock octagon set up at the festival grounds.

Other contests were several hermit crab races won by Osi Reyes and Joseph Cing, first place at \$30 each; Posh Evangelista and Pano Reyes, second

ROMERO

From Page 1

his face while crying.

According to TV Patrol anchor Pinky Webb, Romero's husband and relatives were emotional at the airport. Webb said that Romero's remains were brought to Plaridel, Bulacan, for burial.

Webb mentioned that Saipan authorities have yet to release the autopsy results as well as the suspect's identity.

TV Patrol's news of the arrival of Romero's remains was aired on Saipan through ABS-CBN's The Filipino Channel Sunday night. According to ABS-CBN News, Relata asked for privacy to give the family time to mourn their loss.

Romero's husband and two daughters—ages 17 and 8 years old—are in

place at \$20 each; and Christopher Hofschneider and Ezra Dela Cruz at \$10 each. Winners for the third set received items donated by Joeten Enterprises.

The on the spot cha-cha dance contest winners were Arsene Borja and Mary Ann Aldan, first place at \$70; sisters Lorenda and Doris Cruz, second place at \$50; and Carmen Dela Cruz and Chona Borja, third place at \$30.

For the beach volleyball tournament, winning teams were Pikalicious, first place, \$150; Dinanchi, second place, \$100; and Mas Pika, third place, \$75.

Team DCCA remained undefeated in the Dragon Boat Race and won \$200 after clocking in at 5:54. Other winners were Team JC Café, second place at 5:59 with \$150; Team Tachogna, third place at 7:00 with \$100; and Team NMC, fourth place at 9:00 and received \$10 phone card for each member.

One of the festival's main event was the hot pepper eating contest, which involved chewing as many donni sali as you can within 3 minutes. In the end, Corey San Nicolas bagged the grand prize of a cell phone with free one-year service from IT&E. In the female division, winners were Celina King, first place; Doriana Emul, second place; and Janice Biz, third place. Male category winners were Jay San Nicolas, first place; John Ruwath, second place; and Gerald Crisostomo, third place. First place winners each took home \$150 and a cell phone from Docomo Pacific, second placers with \$100 each, and third placers with \$75 each. Ten-dollar phone cards from IT&E were also given away as consolation prizes.

Another important event was the Estofao Pika cooking contest that Bill Cing won for \$100. Tina Atalig took home the second prize of \$75 and William Aguon and Johnson Delos Santos tied for third place with \$25 each. Consolation prizes of \$20 phone cards from IT&E were given to non-winning contestants.

"The annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival is really a community-based event and we're very happy to see everyone take part in this year's celebration," Vida Borja of Marianas Visitors Authority-Tinian told *Saipan Tribune*.

Tinian Mayor Dela Cruz expressed his appreciation to all those who made the event successful, including Star Marianas, Freedom Air, and *Stars and Stripes*.

"For us here on Tinian, our target is to make the event better every year and we did a good job this year. Hopefully we can surpass it again next year," he said.

the Philippines. One of the children was born on Saipan.

Siblings Eduardo Relata and Estrella "Lhet" Relata, who both work on Saipan, accompanied the body aboard a Delta Air Lines flight via Japan. Romero's five other siblings are based in the Philippines.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos has vowed that the Fitial administration will do its best to bring Romero's killer to justice. Inos was among the many people who paid their last respects to Romero at a special Mass and public viewing at the Kristo Rai Church on Friday.

Romero was last seen alive boarding a green or blue tinted sedan around 3am on Feb. 5 near her residence in Garapan. FBI agents found her body two days later in the northernmost building of the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque.

Tinian mayor to DoD: Use leased land or give it up

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz said the U.S. Department of Defense should either use

Pinoys on Tinian abet efforts to retain consulate on Saipan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Filipinos on Tinian are shoring up efforts to keep the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan, with at least 160 of them signing the signature campaign at the 8th Annual Hot Pepper Festival over the weekend.

The petition, spearheaded by the Saipan-based United Filipino Organization, was passed around at the two-day festival that saw hundreds of Filipinos who took part in the yearly *pika* celebration at the Tachogna Beach.

Hundreds more are expected to sign the petition on Tinian in hopes that the Philippine government reconsiders its plan to close down several foreign service posts, including the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan which has served the Filipino community in the CNMI for almost 23 years.

"We emphasize the need to keep the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan which provides services to the Filipinos in the whole Commonwealth," said Francis Esguerra, who was in charge of circulating the petition on Tinian, in an interview at the festival grounds.

Esguerra, who has been living on Tinian for 15 years, questioned the Philippine govern-

Mificpa hosts tax seminar

The Marianas Institute of Filipino Certified Public Accountants and Accountants is inviting the public to a tax seminar called Tax Updates 2012. The seminar will focus on types of corporation, changes in tax law, residency requirement, income within and without, income distribution – treatment, trust discussion, and others.

The seminar will be conducted by David J. Burger, CPA and director for Burger & Comer, and is scheduled on Feb. 25, 2012, Saturday from 8am to 12pm at the Seaside Hall of the Saipan Grand Hotel. Registration starts at 7:30am.

Registration fee for both members and non-members is \$15 that includes light snacks and participant's certificate. Non-accountants are also welcome for the same fee.

For more details, call or email Aileen Indino at 789-0021 (aileenrindino@yahoo.com), Marlon Estigoy at 237-2554 (marlon@saipan.com), Butch Ordas at 287-0415 (butchordas@yahoo.com), Noli Santos at 285-6810 (noli@marpacspn.com), or Robert Reyes at 789-6498 (robert2reyes@gmail.com). (PR)

or give up its lease on the island so that the local government can come up with activities that would stimulate the island's economy.

Dela Cruz said in an interview

that the DoD leases two-thirds of Tinian that it has not used.

According to Dela Cruz, it is "only fair" for the federal agency to use the lease. Otherwise, the land should be handed back to the

he believes the Saipan consulate is the first party to give Filipino workers the assistance or advice they need.

"It's not guaranteed how fast we can access the same help when our consulate is in Guam," he said.

Jacosalem, who has been working on Tinian for 23 years, said Filipinos on Tinian and Rota benefit from the Saipan consulate through their mobile consular services.

"They visit us regularly so we don't have to travel to Saipan anymore, helping us cut down costs such as airfare and accommodations. What is our assurance that the Guam consulate will be of the same service to us?" he asked.

Edgar Soliva, a maintenance worker on Tinian for 13 years, echoed Jacosalem's sentiments, saying that the Saipan consulate's closure will be acceptable if the Guam diplomatic post can travel to the CNMI every three months.

"The government should support the Filipino community in the CNMI since they do have a budget for this part of the world. If they can allocate funding for other projects or foreign service posts, I hope they value the Filipinos here the same way," added Soliva.

"The number of Filipinos in the Commonwealth is still significant. We're still contract workers so we really need the services of our consulate," said May Moral, a nurse at the Tinian Health Center for 16 years.

ment's decision to shut down the consulate at a time when Filipino workers continue to face uncertainties in their status due to the federalization transition period.

The Saipan consulate announced on Feb. 9 that it will transfer its responsibilities to the Guam Consulate General as part of a wider effort to consolidate foreign service posts in the Pacific due to funding cuts.

"Now is not the best time to pull out the consular services for the Filipinos in the CNMI," she told *Saipan Tribune*. "How can we get assistance from the Guam Consulate if we can't even travel freely to Guam? What happens if there's an emergency in the CNMI?"

The Saipan Consulate General estimates the number of Filipinos in the CNMI at 8,000 to 9,000, with about 20 percent of them based on Tinian and Rota.

Bartolome Valiente, a carpenter who arrived on Tinian in 1987, said Filipino workers in the Commonwealth need the Saipan consulate for services such as passport renewals and assistance in labor cases.

"If we are going to be under the jurisdiction of [the] Guam consulate, it would be really problematic for Filipinos on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. It's okay if we are U.S. visa holders or even citizens, but we're not. Our status is only CW," said Valiente, 71.

Norlo Jacosalem, a Mobil gas station terminal operator, said he signed the petition because

Tinian municipality for subsistence or commercial farming.

"Use your lease on Tinian or get out of it so we can develop the two-thirds of the island into other economic activities," Dela Cruz said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had recommended Tinian as an alternative site for an emergency airfield for the U.S. military and Dela Cruz said he is "very hap-

py" with the governor's "strong recommendation."

The U.S. Air Force held in October 2011 open house scoping meetings on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to solicit public comments in preparation for an environmental impact statement or EIS to develop a divert airfield alternative location to Andersen Air Force Base.

Dela Cruz, who is a member

Saipan Grand Hotel re-launches Food Fair

The Saipan Grand Hotel has revived its popular Food Fair and it has been attracting large crowds since it resumed on Jan. 20, 2012.

The three-day Food Fair, held every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, from 6pm to 9pm, at the hotel's lobby, is not only a good way to eat a large variety of food at very reasonable prices but it is also a perfect time for family bonding and group activities. The dishes for sale range in prices from just \$1 to \$3.

Since its re-launch, the hotel's lobby has been very busy, with



guests patronizing the Food Fair and enjoying the live entertainment featuring cultural and modern dances and upbeat songs.



The Saipan Grand Hotel's popular Food Fair is back and has been attracting large crowds since it resumed on Jan. 20, 2012.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES Division of Fish and Wildlife

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified businesses to develop a working database for the management of fisheries survey data for the Division of Fish and Wildlife under federal grants.

The contract company will, through recommendations from the interested parties, help develop, implement and maintain the database for a time period of up to one year after the finish of the database.

Quotes should take into consideration the following tasks:

1. Design and create a relational database using Microsoft Access to store survey data.
2. Conduct interviews with the interested groups (biologists and technicians) to understand their needs for data entry and procurement.
3. Create forms for all database tables to enter, modify and view survey data.
4. Create sample queries for the database and provide assistance to staff to extend these queries and write new queries as needed.
5. Create sample reports for the database and provide assistance to staff to extend these reports and write new reports as needed.
6. Import historical spreadsheet data into the database. This will be achieved by writing a Visual Basic script for each format of spreadsheet (approximately 7 formats). The script will read its matching spreadsheets and insert the data into the database. Historical data includes:
 - a. 7 different formats of spreadsheets
 - b. Approximately 50 files
 - c. Approximately 1000 lines per file
7. Provide technical assistance for a period of up to one year subsequent to the completion of the database.

Cost and experience:

Price will be a consideration and will be evaluated in comparison with overall merit of the proposal. Furthermore, experience is more important than price and the Government reserves the right to award the project to others than the lowest priced proposer. Preference of experience will be granted to parties with a history of data management of similar, biological data. This may include work with other governmental agencies such as the Division of Environmental Quality, Coastal Resource Management or environmental non-governmental organizations.

Discussions will be conducted with the responsible bidders who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. Bidders shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offer. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing bidders.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract. The firm selected will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the Procurement Regulation 3-301 and must possess a valid CNMI Business License in order to sign a contract.

Award shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal is determined in writing to be most advantageous to the government taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in this request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation. No contract will be awarded to an offeror if the Division of Fish and Wildlife has previously found that the offeror did not fully and properly perform on any previous contract with the CNMI government. Closing date for submitting proposals will be February 28, 2012.

Proposal can be submitted to:

Division of Fish and Wildlife
Lower Base Rd.
PO Box 10007
Saipan, MP, 96950

or by FAX (670) 664 6056
or by Email jeremiahplassjohnson.cnmidfw@yahoo.com

IMMIGRATION LAW

Bruce L. Mailman Maya B. Kara

Available services include

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- Status Clarification

Call for Appointment (670) 233-0081

Law Offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC
Corner of Beach Road and Cpl.
Derence Jack R., Garapan, Saipan

Sailing club makes maiden trip to Tinian for pika festival

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Sailing Club sailed to Tinian for the 8th Annual Hot Pepper Festival, taking about 20 passengers with the objective of educating island residents about the importance of sailing.

Commodore Dave Johansen led club officers and members in navigating three 25-footer sailboats, pulling from behind two small boats and two kayaks that were used by the mariners to teach some 15 aspiring young sailors on the island south of Saipan.

The group left the Saipan dock around 5am on Saturday and arrived at their destination in time for a spicy lunch at the festival grounds in Tachogna Beach at 11:30am.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Hoy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its Regular meeting on Friday, February 24, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at the NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes of Meetings

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS

- A. Communications
 - 1. Chairman/Trustees
 - 2. Administrator/Deputy
 - a. Status / Updates
 - b. Administrative
 - c. Benefits
 - d. Member Home Loan
 - e. Investment / CDARS
- B. Accounting
 - 1. NMI Retirement Fund
 - 2. GHILIF
 - 3. WCC
- C. Internal Auditor
- D. Board Committees
 - 1. Operations, Personnel & Review
 - 2. Finance & Investment
 - 3. Joint (F&I and OPR)
 - 4. Special

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Senate Committee on Retirement (Public Hearing on Tinian)
- B. NMIRF Case No.
 - 1. 10-008 (JSB)
 - 2. 09-001 (EDP)
 - 3. 10-005 (JMM)

- C. Request for Proposal
 - 1. 11-006 Grounds Maintenance
 - 2. 11-007 Office Maintenance

- D. Commonwealth Government Employees
- Credit Union – Request Letter

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Wilshire Presentation
 - 1. Asset Allocation
 - 2. Investment Policy Statement

- B. Group Health and Life Regs. – Adopt as Permanent

- C. AHO Recommended Dismissals

- Disability Claims

- 1. 07-005/09-005 (JAA)

- 2. 07-004 (MPC)

- 3. 09-004 (MAA)

- 4. 09-010 (LMB)

- 5. 09-003 (BCS)

- 6. 09-006 (BDT)

- D. Member Home Loan

- 1. Decision on Disposition of Foreclosed Home

- 2. Execution on Deficiency Judgment(s)

- E. FY 2013 Draft Budget Submission

- F. Desk Audit/Personnel Matters

- G. RFP – Judicial Building Loan

- H. Commission Recapture

- I. WCC Case #SPN-2008-163

VI. LEGAL MATTERS

- A. Reports
 - 1. Legal / Board Counsel
 - 2. Administrative Hearing Officer

- B. Matters Requiring Action
 - 1. Express Electronics, Ltd./Gary Sword

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Other Related Matters

- B. Next Meeting

- C. Adjournment

/S/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR,
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Johansen said that the over-six-hour maritime journey was due to the “uncharacteristically light and pleasant winds.”

“We are shooting for about 20 knots of wind. That’s our ideal wind. Too light winds, not fast; too much winds, very difficult and too many big waves,” explained Johansen, who heads the non-profit organization with Lino Olopai and Cecilio.

Johansen said they brought smaller boats to give their young students “every facet of the challenges in big boats,” including ways to overcome them.

According to Johansen, there is a lack of sailing skills in the islands and acquiring these skills is something that could really impact the Commonwealth in a positive way, given that the islands are interconnected via seaports.

“The old technology of sailing is the green technology of the future,” Johansen told *Saipan Tribune*.

While the group has yet to receive their official organization documents, member A. “Kamal” Rahaman said they are giving their “full energy” to efforts to get younger members of the community into traveling by sea and without the use of engines.

“We are run by the power of the wind,” he added.

Another member, Bruce Siewert, said their basic requirement is for club members to know how to swim but they do provide life jackets and have a safety program in place for those who want to learn how to sail.

Siewert pointed out that their students do not just become skilled at sailing.

“The second aspect of it is we teach them confidence,” he explained. “Younger ones are learning a tremendous amount of confidence. They can actually control a boat and control that energy in nature.”

At present, Siewert says they have about 60 members. The club asks for a minimum annual fee of \$25 per person or \$40 per family unit.

“What we’re looking for [are] sponsors to fund these boats,” said Siewert, who noted that they are building their boats from scratch. “The goal is to have 10 of the small boats.”

According to Siewert, each small boat costs \$1,800 and companies or businesses can come together to sponsor these boats for use in their sailing program, which also aims to keep the youth out of trouble.

The group is inviting the community to join the club or check out their organization



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Marianas Sailing Club members, from left, A. “Kamal” Rahaman, commodore Dave Johansen, Matthew Pastula, Bruce Siewert, and Ron Smith. About 20 members of the group arrived in a maiden voyage to Tinian for the 8th Annual Hot Pepper Festival at 11:30am on Feb. 18.

by attending their training every Saturday from 10am to 3pm at the Oleai Beach or ev-

ery first Monday of the month at 6pm at the American Memorial Park pavilion closest

to Hyatt Regency Saipan.

For information, call 285-7901.

Manglona sets 2014 bench trial for lawsuit vs US govt over FICA taxes

Manglona issued last week a case management scheduling order after conducting a conference in the case on Tuesday, Feb. 14.

Attorney Alexis Fallon, lead counsel for Tinian Dynasty owner Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd. and Rifu Apparel Corp., appeared by telephone at the scheduling hearing. Trial attorney Andy R. Camacho from the

U.S. Department of Justice also appeared by phone as counsel for the U.S. government.

Manglona set a final pretrial conference and hearing on all motions on Feb. 28, 2014.

The plaintiff's filed the lawsuit in 2010 against the U.S. government to recover allegedly wrongfully assessed Social Security and Medicare taxes (collectively called FICA) that were erroneously paid.

Last month, Hong Kong Entertainment, through counsel G. Anthony Long, asked the court to set a conference hearing as a scheduling conference has not been held in this case.

Accordingly, Long said, a scheduling order has not been issued by the district court.

Eleven other defunct garment factories as well as the former Concorde Garment Manufacturing Corp. and numerous Chinese nationals formerly employed by Concorde and its affiliated companies, also filed last year separate but similar lawsuits against the U.S. government.

The plaintiff's alleged that they erroneously withheld the taxes from the wages of their then employees and paid to the U.S. government.

Last Dec. 29, Manglona ordered the owners of the 11 defunct garment manufacturers to explain why the court should not dismiss their lawsuit for lack of prosecution. The judge noted that the case has been pending for more than one year without any action taken by the parties in that period.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB 12-CRM-050



SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 12, 2012 TIME: 1:30 P.M.

LEASE OF AN OFFICE SPACE FOR THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT - ROTA BRANCH

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ RITA C. CHONG-DELA CRUZ
ADMINISTRATOR - CRM

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP12-MOT-014



SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 15, 2012 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

A/E SERVICES - INDEFINITE DELIVERY, INDEFINITE QUANTITY (IDIQ) CONTRACT FOR THE ISLAND OF TINIAN

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, OR AT THE TINIAN MAYOR'S OFFICE, TINIAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M., MONDAY THRU THURSDAY EXCEPT CNMI HOLIDAYS).

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO JOE DELA CRUZ OR FAX TO (670) 433-1819 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MARCH 05, 2012.

PROJECT FOR THIS RFP MAY BE FUNDED THROUGH LOCAL AND FEDERAL FUNDS. AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ RAMON M. DELA CRUZ
MAYOR OF TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP12-DOF/EDP-029



SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 15, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

CNMI TAX SYSTEM MAINTENANCE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES FOR DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, DIVISION OF REVENUE & TAXATION OFFICE

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M., MONDAY THRU THURSDAY EXCEPT CNMI HOLIDAYS).

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 05, 2012 AT 9:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME AT THE DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION, DAN DAN.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-05 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ LARISSA C. LARSON
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP12-OHS-044 (A)(B)



SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 27, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF THREE (3) LAPTOP COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS AND ONE (1) COLOR COPIER MACHINE FOR THE OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS MAY RETRIEVE A COPY OF THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THE INVITATION FOR BIDS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. CARL DELA CRUZ, OHS PROCUREMENT OFFICER BY E-MAIL TO ohs.delacruz@gmail.com NO

8th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival



Residents and visitors enjoy the various offerings of different vendors at the festival grounds.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



Female contestants for the Hot Pepper Eating Contest get ready as they wait for the start of the competition.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



A young female dancer entertains the crowd with a dance number.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



Young members of the crowd enjoy Hapi D' Clown's pass the ball game.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



Enjoying the festival are Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce, CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, and historian Don Farrell.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos takes a bite of the entries at the Estofao Pika cooking contest.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



Team JC Cafe makes it to the shore after the first heat of the Dragon Boat Race.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



Young male contestants prepare their umang for Sunday's crab race.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

New social group for new moms formed

A new group designed for mothers with children ages 0 to 18 months will be meeting regularly starting today, Feb. 21.

Moms of Tiny Tots or MOTTs is a group that offers mothers a chance to socialize with mothers in a similar phase in life while also offering playmates for their children. Expectant women and

mothers with slightly older children are also welcome to join.

MOTTs will initially meet today at 10:30am at Church 360, a contemporary non-denominational Christian church located in Suite 103 at the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

Kayla Wood, the group's

visionary, said MOTTs gives women an opportunity to get out and do fellowship with women by sharing thoughts and prayers, exchanging ideas or recipes, or just having a good laugh.

"But women aren't the only ones invited," said Wood. "It is encouraged that they bring their children along as well. The idea

is that the children get to meet and socialize as well."

Light refreshments will be served during the meeting. Schedule of meetings in March is on March 6 and 20.

To sign up or for more information, call 888-2116 or email info@church360saipan.org. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WINNING TEAMS

Congratulations to all participants in the Girls' Interscholastic Volleyball Tournament 2012. From left, Koblerville Elementary School players, who won first place, Kagman Elementary School players, who won second place, and Oleai Elementary School, who won third place.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Darwin Barbo, who celebrated his special day on Feb. 19, 2012. We love you! Greetings come from your wife and son.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to Melissa Hernandez Matias! Life is great at any age so enjoy yours. Don't count the years, count all the cheers. Good health and God bless! Greetings come from your family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Roy Tudela, who celebrated his special day on Feb. 16! We love you! Greetings come from your family, Tina, Jr., Draven, and Franko.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to the Koblerville Elementary School for winning place in the 2012 Girls Interscholastic Volleyball Tournament held over the weekend. Greetings come from LM Fleming.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Renita Fleming and the team girls for winning first place in the 2012 Girls Interscholastic Volleyball Tournament held over the weekend. "Love you Nen!" Greetings come from Dad, Mom, your sister, and brothers.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 21, 2000

Monthly allowance of Rota, Tinian lawmakers hiked

The House of Representatives on Friday established a higher fixed monthly allowance for legislators from Rota and Tinian, a move that solicited criticism from other government officials in view of the standing austerity program initiated by the administration. House Resolution 12-011, which establishes per diem rate for Tinian and Rota lawmakers, was adopted by the lower chamber of the CNMI Legislature in a vote of 13 yes, three against and one abstention. According to Rep. Antonio M. Camacho, the subsistence allowance previously received by Tinian and Rota legislators are not enough to cover the actual expenses they incur while attending government business on Saipan.

House overrides governor veto on 2 bills

Citing the need to immediately implement the proposed measures, the House of Representatives over the weekend nullified a move by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio rejecting two bills passed by the 11th CNMI Legislature. The lower house overruled the governor's veto on Senate Bill 11-148 and House Bill 11-493. The proposed measures will be transmitted to the Senate for the upper house's action. Should the Senate act to also override the governor's veto, the proposed measures will become law even without the approval of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

Feb. 21, 2001

Plan to extend govt workers' retirement benefits opposed

Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona is not upbeat with a plan to extend retirement benefits to government employees who retired prior to the enactment of Public Law 6-17 or the Retirement Act Fund. He argued that the fiscal integrity of the Retirement Fund is crucial and no changes should be made to the law, which might threaten the government's ability to take care of present and future obligations to retirees. "Perhaps I don't appreciate all the fine points of these proposed amendments, but how do we pay for the retirement fund benefits for the 'former employees?'" Who pays their contributions?" Mr. Manglona remarked.

Establishments asked to conform with ADA

A week before the CNMI would proclaim March as the month for persons with disabilities, a Rota resident filed before the US District Court a civil action suit against three Saipan hotels for allegedly violating provisions under the Americans with Disabilities Act. As if on cue, Rita Ramos through her counsel Mark Edward Williams last week filed charges that pray injunctive relief for the failure of three hotel resorts to comply with accessible requirements cited under ADA. Ms. Ramos, a person with severe physical disabilities by virtue of having suffered a stroke, is seeking declaratory and injunctive relief, damages, attorney's fees, costs transportation, and other expenses against Stanford Resort Hotel, Marianas Resort, and Plumeria Resort.

Feb. 21, 2002

CPA's incentive program working

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has granted CNMI signatory airlines close to \$500,000 in total incentives under a program that gives substantial discount in airport charges to carriers that are able to increase their average monthly traffic count. The program offers up to 50 percent discount in airport charges for airline companies that are able to increase their average monthly passenger haul as well as to carriers that are able to serve new markets. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said the implementation of the ports authority's Airline Incentive Program has translated to about \$.5 million in total savings to foreign carriers since its implementation in 1999.

US specialist facilitates seminar on deaf/blind

In line with the anticipated proclamation of March as Disability Awareness Month, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation yesterday hosted a two-day seminar on the "Medical Aspect of Dear/Blindness" at the Hibiscus Room of the Saipan Diamond Hotel. The seminar, which gathers representatives from various government agencies and non-governmental organizations in the Northern Marianas, continues today from 8am to 5pm at the same venue. Houston-based Constance W. Miles facilitates the two-day seminar. Miles, who is associated with the Baylor Medical Center in Texas, is a rehabilitation and special education consultant in the areas of sensory impairments and deaf/blindness.

Sorensen Media Group is 2012 MMAC title sponsor

Sorensen Media Group Saipan (Power 99/97.9 The Kat/ABC 7) has been named a title sponsor of the 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer. Title sponsorship is the highest level of sponsorship for the annual event and is conferred on companies that donate \$3,000 or more in cash or services.

"Sorensen Media Group has been a title sponsor for the past several years and the 2012 MMAC committee is incredibly grateful for their strong support of this worthy cause. The 2012 MMAC committee extends its sincere gratitude to the staff and management of Sorensen Media Group for their contribution in the battle against cancer," said 2012 MMAC overall committee chair Catherine Attao-Toves.

The Marianas March Against Cancer is the largest fundraising activity and the signature fundraising event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association—a volunteer-led non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting cancer awareness.

MMAC team meeting on Feb. 23

The 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer committee will be holding a team meeting on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. The meeting will begin promptly at 5:30pm.

"All team captains or their representatives are urged to attend this important meeting where vital information will be discussed and disseminated," said 2012 overall MMAC chair Catherine Attao-Toves. For more information contact team recruitment committee chairwoman Reina Camacho at reinacamacho@gmail.com.

Community forum to address NCDs

The epidemic of non-communicable diseases or NCDs in the CNMI is the most important health issue of our time. "Non-communicable diseases" include health problems such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and cancer. These health problems are the most common causes of disability and death, are lifestyle related and, for the most part preventable.

This epidemic of NCDs is directly linked to four risk factors—poor diet, lack of physical activity, tobacco use, and alcohol abuse.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Division of Public Health recognizes that NCDs are not only an epidemic but a true public health emergency that, despite all efforts, has steadily become worse.

A group of concerned community leaders and members of the Division of Public Health met twice in the last few weeks and discussed this NCD epidemic and how best to address it. This group believes that

and prevention, providing patient support services, and serving as the liaison and advocate for cancer issues in the CNMI. All funds raised at the MMAC are spent entirely in the CNMI on cancer-related services.

"We are seeking the support of more businesses, individuals and organizations who wish to support the 2012 MMAC by donating funds, services, or raffle items. We welcome all donations so please contact our sponsorship committee chair Rachel Roque at 989-1247 or email remroque@gmail.com for more information," said Attao-Toves.

The 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held from 6pm to 6am on April 27-28 at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. The 2012 MMAC is brought to you by title sponsors Delta Air Lines and Sorensen Media Group Saipan. For more information call 285-1828, email attaoc@yahoo.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org. (MMAC)



Position Vacancy Announcement

Position: Vice President/General Manager (1)

Qualifications: Must have 10 years experience managing full service 36 hole golf course, experience in developing and marketing and coordinating marketing strategies, knowledge of business management practices of golf course operation and hotel operation, assignment and projects for the golf course, maintain and grow membership and customer by promptly handling member and guest concerns and issues, ensure open communication and high visibility to members and guest by conducting daily walk through of the club, generate revenue by acting as sales manager for the entire golf club and resort, expand sales by initiating and monitoring effectiveness of monthly promotions, demand managements and demand creation strategies.

Position: Executive Chef (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years experienced and training in culinary cooking and have graduated from a Culinary School, accounts for the management and supervision of kitchen staff and cooks, provides a consistently high quality of food product services to guests and customers, ensure that meals are produced, presented and served to the highest possible standards, monitors materials, supplies and equipment needs, ensure staff uphold and maintain current standards of hygiene and safety, ensure the kitchen maintains a high level of sanitary conditions in accordance with all applicable laws, statutes, and policies, communicate with staff in order to facilitate and conduct a team approach, monitor food trend and incorporate new styles and ideas to fulfill customer demands and needs.

Position: Assistant Chef, Korean Cuisine (1)

Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years in the preparation of Korean food, will be involved in Korean menu development, inventory, ordering/purchasing, food cost control, training, personnel management such as coaching, complies to all applicable Sanitation Codes, ensure efficient, safe and sanitary food production, preparation, presentation and knowledgeable of Korean food trends with focus on quality, experience in large catering or banquet functions, excellent communication skills in Korean and basic English to understand and follow recipe, able to communicate on all levels, including management, departmental and customer.

Position: Chef de Partie (1)

Qualifications: 7 years of cooking experience and training, responsible for the creation of high quality dishes, able to work independently, cooks consistently and enthusiastically on a high level, helps create and cook to perfection seasonal and including a five course modern gourmet menu, small selection of signature la carte dishes, cooks and prepares for each meal service, controls incoming goods and stores food, vegetables, fruits, staple in a perfect conditions, guest oriented and able to converse with the clients, actively attends wine and general trainings, team building events and supplier visits to learn about local product, has fun cooking, is a sociable person, likes to work as a teamwork, and respects and actively works with colleagues.

Position: Chief Cook (1)

Qualifications: Minimum of 5 years of experience and training, knowledge of standards of food preparation, serves, and observes kitchen procedures, experience in kitchen management, train kitchen staff, monitoring and assessing performance of the kitchen staff to make improvements or take corrective action, direct the preparation, seasoning, and cooking of food, determine how food should be presented and create decorative food displays, ensure timely delivery of services, estimate amount and costs of required supplies, instruct cook and other kitchen staff in the preparation, cooking, garnishing and presentation of food, monitor sanitation practices to ensure that employees follow standards and regulations.

Position: Cook (6)

Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years of experience and training, prepares or directs preparation of foods according to prescribed menus and recipes, takes inventory of supplies on hand and orders food supplies, ingredients and other consumables on a schedules basis as determined by menu and estimated number of customers, cleans and sanitizes all food preparation equipment and ensures that it is kept in safe and operable condition, knowledge of methods, materials, and practices of volume food preparation, sanitary methods used in food preparation.

Position: Assistant Manager, Food & Beverage Department (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of working experience and training. Must have supervisory experience and training, preferably in hotel and resort facilities, have experienced for all food and beverage services including banquet catering, bar/grill, dining restaurant, and outside beverage carts, must have cost control of all food and beverage outlets by helping in overseeing the purchasing of food, maintains effective inventory and shortage controls, work with the Executive Chef to develop an annual food and beverage plan and budget, ensure successful operation of special events, banquets, rentals, coordinates the delivery for all food and beverage service to the customer at the highest guest standard, supervise staff and operational during shift, ensure all of the services provided are immediate need of the customer, maintain and develop a dedicated team providing the highest quality of service and addresses all staffing issues in a fair and timely manner.

Position: Wait staff (Waiter&Waitress) (5)

Qualifications: 2 years experience and training, must have preferably worked at a hotel or tourism industry, ability to listen to and understand through spoken words and sentences, ability to arrange things or actions in a certain order or pattern, communicating with Supervisors, peers, or subordinates, handling and moving of objects, judging the qualities of things, services, or people, performing general physical activities, talking to others to convey information effectively, acting listening and service orientated.

Position: Kitchen Helper (2)

Qualifications: Must have 3 years of working experience, must be familiar with the dynamics of a professional kitchen is a plus, willingness to learn, time and space management skills, physical stamina, a friendly temperament, a desire to help out where needed and the ability to foster the creation and maintenance of a cohesive team, assist cooks, keep kitchen clean, perform a variety of food preparation task, assist with food and beverage service, receive and store supplies, sweep and mop floors, segregates and removes trash and garbage and places, hoses out garbage container, washes pots, pans, trays by hand, scrapes food from dirty dishes and washes them by hand or place them in racks.

Position: Assistant Manager, Front Office (1)

Qualifications: Must have 2 years of experienced and training in the field of hotel and golf resort operation, must be organized, neat and professional appearance, pleasant, tactful and patient, able to communicate well with a wide variety of people, committed to providing good service, enjoy dealing with people, ability to direct and control the activities of the Front Office, Reservations, deal with customer complaints, knowledge of a second language is a plus (write, read, and speak) computer literate with knowledge of a variety of computer software applications, and superior written and oral communications skills, ability to respond properly and take a supervisory role in any hotel emergency or safety situation.

Position: Korean Concierge (1)

Qualification: 3 years of experienced and training, must have worked in a hotel or tourism industry, communicate directly with guests, both in person and by telephone, provides information on facilities to Korean speaking guest at the golf & resort, provide information and services in Korean, must be able to offer the Korean guest in any number of special circumstances, good communication skills in Korean language is vitally important, provides all the information that the guest needs to enjoy their stay, good problem solving skills, good organizational skills, must be trained and experienced in tourism or hospitality managements, excellent customer service skills.

Position: Supervisor, Japan Sales & Marketing (2)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years experienced and training in marketing strategy for the Japanese market, must be fluent in the Japanese language as well as to read and write, experienced contacting and selling to Corporate level executives, experienced in Sales and Marketing most especially in the Japan markets, built and managed a network of marketing and selling Hotel and Golf product

and services, possess innovative business promotional and advertising activities, strong negotiating skills, knowledgeable of the Japanese customers needs, have strong demonstrations skills, must work with management team to create sales and marketing plans that includes to identify and target Japan Markets, identify potential Japanese clients.

Position: Supervisor Pro Shop (1)

Qualifications: Must have 3 years of supervisory experienced and training, able to lead, direct and motivate the sales team in order to achieve sales objectives, identifies appropriate business targets, provides a professional and excellent level of customer service with existing and new customers, supervises scheduled shift, completes all assigned duties, supervises sale associates, ensure that all employees adhere to company policies and procedures, knowledge of principles, techniques, and objectives of marketing, manages a sales program, knowledge of hotel management and philosophy.

Position: Sales Representative, Pro shop (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of training and experienced in the field of golf operation, must maintain outstanding customer service, generating sales, merchandising, must be fully competent in selling, knowledgeable of cashiering and receipt processing, knows how to operate a computerized point of sale cash receipts, inventory management system, ensure that each customer receives, ability to work varied hours/days, including nights, weekends and holidays as needed, must recognize security risks and thefts and know how to handle or prevent such situations.

Position: Front Desk Supervisor (2)

Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years of hospitality work, must have total understanding of all hotel front office procedures, know standard of cash handling, knowledge of computerized cash register systems, reservation system, must have experience in dealing directly with the public and acquired general knowledge of basic customer service skills, experienced and trained in the field of Front Office Operation, assist the Front Office Staff in handling customers in an efficient, gracious and professional manner and maintains a friendly, cheerful and courteous demeanor at all times.

Position: Front Desk Clerk (2)

Qualifications: Must have at least 2 year experienced and training in hotel hospitality or tourism industry, must have good communication skills, professional attitude and organization, enjoy working with people, experienced in customer services, sales, ability to use a computer, handles cash, experienced in administrative skills, ensure guests billing is correct, must assist in general maintenance and inventory of Front Office supplies, be courteous and efficient with customers.

Position: Front Desk Clerk, China/Korea Market (1)

Qualifications: Assist the front desk clerks in handling Korean and Chinese guests in an efficient, gracious and professional manager, responsible for the management, organization of the Front Office and related functions pertaining to the Korean and Chinese guests, respond and display a high degree of professionalism and integrity as well to a wide variety of people, enjoys dealing with people, computer literate with knowledge of a variety of computer software applications and inventory of Front Office supplies, be courteous and efficient with customers.

Position: Executive Housekeeping (1)

Qualifications: 7 years experience and training is required, must have worked preferably at a hotel, responsible for the smooth, efficient, cost effective operation of the Housekeeping Department, inventory control, works closely with Front Desk Assistant Manager to resolve all room discrepancies, possesses good knowledge of all matters relating to the proper administration of the Housekeeping department, provides employee safety training to prevent accidents, maintains quality standards through inspection programs, follows and ensures compliance to all hotel control procedures by staff.

Position: Housekeeping (2)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years of experience and training cleaning hotel rooms, ensure clean, orderly attractive rooms in hotels, and must have training cleaning golf facilities, prepare a list of prospective check-outs, investigates complaints regarding housekeeping service and equipment, takes corrective action, operates various mechanized cleaning equipment, responsible for disposal of trash, waste and other disposable materials, conducts inventories to ensure adequate supplies, observe precautions required to protect hotel guests' property, and report theft or found articles to supervisors.

Position: Chief Accountant (1)

Qualifications: must have bachelor's degree in public or business administration, accounting, finance or related field, supplemented by 5 years progressively responsible experience in business accounting, ability to understand, follow and confer written and oral instructions, ability to effectively supervise a staff comprised of entry and journey level professionals engaged in carrying out departmental functions, extensive knowledge of generally accepted standard accounting principles, established procedures, departmental guidelines and regulatory requirements.

Position: Accountant I (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of experienced and training, and a college graduate in the field of accounting or related field, maintain general ledger accounting system, analyze accounts and prepare account adjustment as needed, assist with fixed asset and inventory systems and record-keeping, perform a variety of complex, professional level accounting functions, maintain confidentiality of payroll and other related records, ability to prepare clear, concise and comprehensive financial, statistical and narrative reports, and perform complex financial, statistical, budgetary cost analysis and ability to perform complex accounting duties related to assigned activities.

Position: Accountant (1)

Qualifications: 5 years work experience and knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles and procedures and budgetary principles, considerate knowledge of computers and their application in financial and accounting system, ability to prepare clear financial statement, establish tables of accounts and assign entries to proper accounts, use professional judgment, ability to plan, organize and meet rigid schedules and demanding timelines and seasonal workloads.

Position: Information Technology Technician (1)

Qualification: Must have 5 years of experienced and training and a college graduate in Computer science, responsible for installing, maintaining computer hardware, software, networks, have proficient knowledge in computer hardware and software systems and programs, computer networks, network administration and network installations, computer troubleshooting, team building skills, analytical and problem solving skills, decision making skills, effective verbal, presentation and listening communication skills, effective written communication skills, computer skills including the ability to operate graphics and website development programs at a highly proficient level, good time management.

Position: Information Technology Assistant (1)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years of experience and training must be a college graduate of computer applications and operating systems, PC hardware and trouble shooting, repair procedures, principles and practices of computer and telephone support services, computer hardware and software applications, familiar with information technology policies and procedures, computer operations processing and procedures, communicate clearly and easily with user and vendors of varying levels of technical expertise.

Position: Project Engineer/Facility Maintenance Manager (1)

Qualifications: 10 years of experienced and training, college graduate, is responsible to ensure that all LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort facilities are maintained in the highest of standards in their operation, assists in implementation and coordination of maintenance, repair, renovations of Company owned and leased facilities, monitors contractors compliance to standards for various Company buildings, conducts initial review and evaluates bids for compliance with specifications, report building maintenance needs, respond appropriately to emergencies or urgent issues as they arise, manage and supervise and coordinates the work of the staff and the work of contractors, communicate clearly and concisely, maintain adequate inventory, preventive maintenance and repairs of equipment.

Position: Supervisor, Electrician (1)

Qualifications: Have 7 years of training and experienced, and a college graduate, must have electrical trade qualifications, complies and adheres to the Occupational Safety and Health and Standards and practices, excellent communication and team building skills, must have computer systems skills, perform electrical work as required within their capabilities, maintaining a high standard of workmanship and abide by local statutes, perform skilled electrical installations, undertake modifications to plan & equipment repair electronic components of electrical equipment as required for continued operation, attend to production machinery breakdowns as required.

Position: Mechanic Engineer (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of training and experienced, must have graduate degree, is responsible for all mechanical installations maintenance programs, stress analysis, piping, process plants layout and mechanical building services, responsible in power plant engines and generators, evaluates equipment performance and operating conditions, proficient in the planning and control of work in a multi project, deadline driven environment, deep and thorough understanding of applicable regulatory requirements and industry practices, assumes accountability for the quality of mechanical engineering work.

Position: HVAC Technician (1)

Qualifications: 7 years of experience and training, must have specialized knowledge to analyze and solve complex problems, continuous concentrated mental and visual effort to plan and perform complex work, strong physical exertion, responsibility for cost control, sustained high degree of attention required to prevent damage or waste, repair replace tools needed to maintain equipment and systems, install heating, air conditioning, refrigeration systems and related equipment for the propose of providing comfort inside facilities, maintains tools.

Position: Building Maintenance (2)

Qualifications: Must have 3 years of working experience and training, must have standard maintenance skills and the ability to apply that knowledge safely in a structured environment, skill in operating maintenance and carpentry tools and equipments, activities and decisions, requires independent actions, judgment in solving common problems, must have tolerance for exposure to unpleasant elements, be able to positively interact with fellow workers, maintains and repairs a variety of building facilities and provides service for common mechanical, electrical, and building system devices.

Position: Assistant Manager, Recreation Facility Attendant (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of experience and training in golf industry, Must be able to communicate and supervise facility attendant employees, inspect golf equipment, structures, or materials, work with the public, assist others, monitor events, coordinates the work and activities of others, develop and build teamwork, knowledge of a second language is a plus, knowledge of the golf sport and rules is a must, generally work a flex schedule, often deal with unpleasant, angry or discourteous customers, work in a group or as part of a team, provide directions to customers, make sure that the customers follow golf etiquette and rules.

Position: Supervisor, Recreation Facility Attendant (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years experienced and training and working in a golf industry, must keep things running smoothly, provide information about and the services the Company provides, keep equipment in working order, explain how to use equipment safety, provide information about rules, record details of attendance, reservations, make sure that people follow rules, communicate and supervise facility attendant employees, must be pleasant, neat in appearance, must be punctual and reliable, ability to work well with the public is very important, knowledge of the golf sport, responsible for work outcomes and results of other attendants.

Position: Operations/Marshall (1)

Qualifications: Must have training and experience in the field of golf industry, must knowledge of the rules of the golf game is a must, ensures that an adequate pace of play is maintained, makes the golf game more enjoyable for everyone, enforces rules and regulations and control golf play on the golf course, enforces etiquette related to golf course usage, golf playing equipment and its recommended use, perform duties with significant independence, establish and maintain cooperative relationships with those in the course of the work.

Position: Supervisor, Landscape (1)

Qualifications: Must have 7 years of experienced and training in the field of a golf course industry, must oversee the landscaping activities and supervises all landscaping personnel, work required judgment and initiative, planning, scheduling

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

Volume XXII, Issue No. 43

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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Special to the Saipan Tribune

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Fat Tuesday

The Roman Catholic community is split in its observance of this Tuesday. Its religious adherents consider it a time to confess "one's sins" in a penitential posture toward Ash Wednesday's penance ushering the 40-day season of Lent culminating in Holy Week, the triumphal entry of Palm Sunday into the excruciating rites of passage of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Saturday Glory, and Empty tomb Sunday.

The more secular Roman sees 45 days of deprivation and thereby goes into a binge on Fat Tuesday, Mardi Gras to the French, the day before facing up to the indelible truth that "from earth we came to earth we shall return; blessed is the reality of life."

We zero in on two aspects of the day: the confessional one and the binge.

Brother Barack Obama played confessor-cum-accuser to China's Vice President Xi Jing Ping in the latter's recent visit to the United States. Obama lectured Xi on "human rights" in a discourse increasingly resembling the passage of two ships in the night in close proximity but missing substantial contact, let alone substantial encounter.

Human right gained widespread popularity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, expanded in meaning from its UN formulation in 1948 of individual freedoms and social responsibility into various covenants and protocols that now embody various emphasis and direction.

The United States looks at human rights from the perspective of personal conscience, thus out of morality, while China looks at the same from communal responsibility, thus out of social ethics. Neither is exclusive of the other, but the U.S. views it from the focus of the human individual in a time sequence of bondage to liberation, servitude to emancipation, while China, rooted on the order and organization of space, locates the human core at societal stability and tranquility.

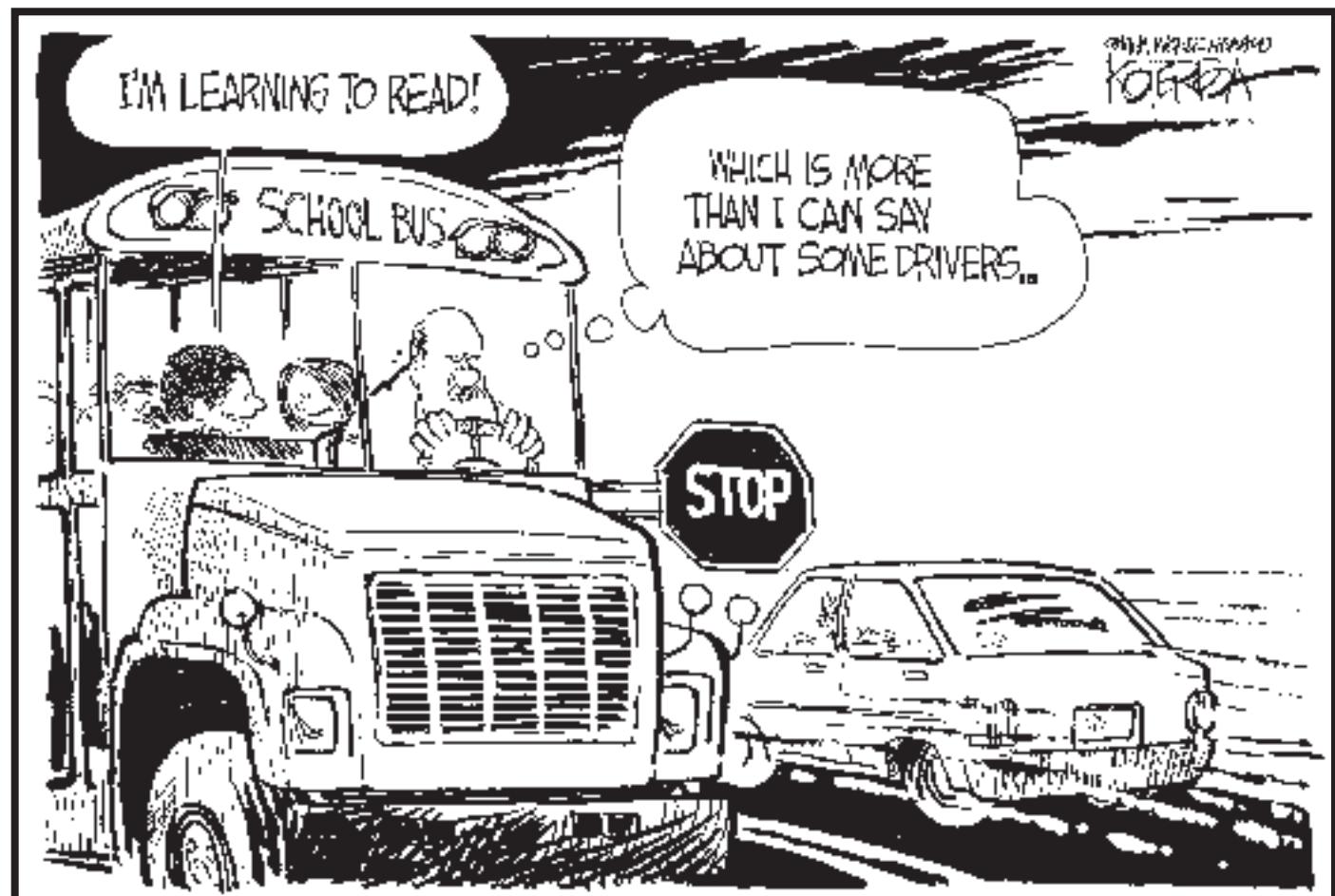
Thus it is inconceivable to the Western eyes to see authenticity in North Korean citizens' shedding tears over the demise of their revered leader Kim Jung Il. Tears for JFK differ in that it is for the individual Jack; the one for Kim was for the reality of a figurehead, a symbolic yet existentially real to the life of a nation and the individuals within it.

Nor is it a wonder why Iran might insist on a nuclear power capability given the treatment given Gaddafi of Libya after he gave up on the country's nuclear armament program as compared to the "respect" North Korea gets after the country's 1993 decision to militarize rather than remain a weak ward of China post-USSR collapse.

So, Xi getting lectured on China's "human rights" record from a country that waged a civil war to emancipate its African slaves, create an immigration office to keep Chinese and other Asians out of the passport line, and self-defensively falling into paroxysm of fear emotionalizing the 9/11 assault to launch an undefined war on terror, and we wonder why the Chinese keep English as its second tongue on its way to the globalization of its economics, politics, and culture!

The Americanization of Emily is a 1964 movie of a cowardly Navy commander in England taking advantage of the goodwill of an English lassie as he tried to avoid being exposed to the dan-

See FAT on Next Page



Stalking the INA chimera

Chimera: (a) in Greek mythology, a monstrous, fire breathing creature composed of the parts of multiple animals; (b) in our daily immigration practice, the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Everyone loves to watch lawyer and cop shows on TV; from *Perry Mason* in the '50s and '60s, through *Hill Street Blues* and *LA Law* in the '80s and '90s, to the various current incarnations such as *Law and Order*, *NCIS* and so forth. As a result, many people think that lawyers are basically courtroom warriors who engage in clever and passionate verbal combat with judge and jury on behalf of their innocent and hapless clients. Or that lawyers are sleazy operators who assist corrupt politicians and greedy big business types in dirty backroom deals. The reality, at least in our experience, is much less dramatic. Much of what we do is to read and try to understand the meaning of the cases, statutes, rules and regulations as they affect our clients' problems.

Although all areas of law involve statutes and regulations, it is generally agreed that immigration law is one of the most convoluted and difficult legal practices. Immigration law is convoluted and difficult because it is a *chimera* (see definition above). It is an accretion of about 140 years of amendment and reenactment of the original Nationalization Act of 1870, and it is a reflection of our continually changing national policy regarding immigration. The last four major revisions to the Immigration and Nationalization Act ("INA") occurred in 1952 (reflecting Cold War-era concerns about communist infiltration); in 1965 (reflecting liberal era elimination of national origin quotas and providing preferences to immediate relatives); 1986 (a mixed bag authorizing limited amnesty but also imposing penalties for hiring illegal aliens, and creating "conditional permanent" resident status, a bizarre concept indeed) and 1996 (reflecting a swing to the right with drastic restrictions on asylum, enhancement of governmental detention authority, and elimination of many forms of relief). Like the Chimera of Greek mythology, the current INA is made up of the core statute, from 1952, with additional laws—often reflecting major policy changes—slapped into place over and over again. And the INA, like the Chimera, can have ruinous effects on the lives of those who approach without due caution and preparation.

Another way to say it is that because the INA is the result of layers upon layers of amendments and changing policy in immigration law, it is very difficult to read and is often contradictory. It is organized in a manner that demands the dedication of a Talmudic scholar to locate references to any given issue. Even if you find the issue, you cannot be sure that you have found every cross reference, and cross references are where the various exceptions and exemptions to the general rules are hidden. The statute itself is subject to regulations published to assist implementation, and agency policy directives and memoranda to aid interpretation. On top of that, there are various manuals to assist field adjudicators and officers, both in USCIS (and its siblings CPB and ICE) and the Department of State. Then of course there is case law, both within the agency's administrative procedure and on appeal by the federal courts. And on top

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

of everything else there are the unresolved issues, and the resolved issues whose resolution may take years to filter down through the administering agencies.

So what is a poor lawyer to do? Well, we do our best with what we've got. We use our knowledge, our experience, and our intuition to do what makes sense in any given moment and move forward, ready to alter course when the situation or the available information changes. Lawyering is not an exact science. Which is our way of saying that our columns are just that, our best opinion, given all the circumstances of which we are aware.

All that being said, we happened on some interesting interpretations, these past several weeks, of things we thought we already knew.

Guam transit surprise: If you have advance parole and intend to travel through Guam, you need Guam transit parole (in addition to your advance parole) to travel outbound, but, it turns out, not to return. We recently had a client, a foreigner with a pending green card application who needed to go to the Philippines as the designated escort of her U.S. citizen husband; he was being medically referred for emergency heart surgery. Getting the advance parole was delayed and the couple grew quite anxious waiting. Finally the advance parole arrived, the medical referral office booked the tickets and the couple proceeded to the airport. They were not boarded by the airline because the alien wife lacked a transit parole through Guam. After a flurry of emergency contacts and an application to USCIS, she received her transit parole, but it was only good for two days. Panic set in. She was good to go out but how to return? After another flurry of emergency contacts with Guam USCIS, we learned that she needed no transit parole on the way back. She would re-enter the U.S. in Guam using her advance parole and pass inspection there. Traveling from Guam to Saipan is domestic travel, not requiring additional parole. It may seem obvious in retrospect, but it was not so obvious in advance. But that's often the way it is.

Widows and widowers alert: Pursuant to a recent addition to the See STALKING on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

ISLAND VIEWS

The following are written by the students of the Writing Classes of Mrs. Robinson at the Northern Marianas College. The views expressed are solely those of the students.

President Obama

By PISANTY NACHU

The person I want to meet is U.S. President Barack Obama. As the first African-American President, Mr. Obama is doing everything he can to help the people of the United States and its territories. The reason I want to meet him is that I want also to be the first Chuukese to meet a President of the United States. Back in 2008, President Obama was my first choice when he faced Sen. John McCain (Ariz.) in the run-off. When Mr. Obama was declared the winner, I was happy because he became a historical person. Even though some people do not like him today, he is still my favorite President. He is the President who ended the war in Iraq after U.S. Navy SEALs killed Osama bin Laden. For me, President Obama is the greatest Western leader today.

My mother

By SELENA WANG

My mother is a college professor in China. She has taught me many things about life. She is one of the most important people in my life. I learned many good values from my mother. Those values include the necessity to fear God, the importance of studying hard, the necessity of faithfulness, how to prepare myself to be a wise woman, and how to cook. The most important thing she has taught me is to have faith in God. Her teachings continue to influence me today. When I was very young, she told me Bible stories and taught me to trust God. She did not talk much, but it was the way she lived that influenced me. I learned values of good character from my mother. She has taught me many good things about life.

The best meal

By HEIRSZAN MARTINEZ

The best meal I have ever had is red lobster boiled in coconut milk. I learned the recipe from my father before he passed away. First, you boil the lobster for a few hours until the lobster's outer shell turns red. In the meantime, prepare to husk a mature brown coconut. After

husking the coconut, split the round coconut in half. Next, grind the white coconut meat from half of the coconut that you husked. Put the white coconut meat in a bowl. Next, put the white coconut meat in cheesecloth and add water. As you add water to the cheesecloth, squeeze creamy white coconut milk into a bowl. After the lobster is boiled, put the cooked lobster in another pot. Add salt, onions, garlic (for seasoning), and creamy white coconut milk to the lobster. Boil for about 10 minutes. By the time you know it, the lobster will be ready to eat. Trust me, it will be so delicious you will not even think of your problems. Feel free to use my recipe if you have a chance to cook lobster. Let me know how you like it!

Colors

By MIKI ITO

There are many colors in our lives: red, black, white, blue, yellow, green. ... Each day we see different and interesting colors. For example, black glass is transparent when light shines on it. However, it is dark black in the darkness. Colors can also affect the way we feel. We can get more energy looking at primary colors like red, orange, yellow, or green. So it is a good idea to wear clothes of a primary color when we are feeling a little sad. By wearing a primary color, we will feel more energy and also feel better. Many athletes wear red when they play their sports. Do you know Tiger Woods? He is a famous golf player. He always wears a red polo shirt in the final round of a tournament. A professional sports player like Tiger Woods may get tense when he plays an important tournament. That is why professional athletes wear red clothing. So different colors can affect our feelings and our behavior.

My favorite color

By IN JU AHN

My favorite color is purple. I also like black and white colors, but I prefer purple. For example, I have many purple shoes and eye shadows in different shades of purple such as violet and orchid. Some people have told me that the color purple is a gloomy color and makes a person feel down. They also say it is difficult to coordinate purple clothes. I agree, but I still believe purple is a more attractive color for me. When I wear purple clothes, I feel blue but calm. Moreover, when I wear purple make-up, I feel better than before. For me, the purple color pleases and refreshes me.

Soccer

By HO JIN WOO

I am an excellent soccer player. Soccer is a very good sport for my health. So I like to play it with my friends at the American Memorial Park. Sometimes I play soccer with my son and daughter. They like to play soccer with me. However, my wife does not like to play soccer. I am a member of the MP United Team on Saipan. I am Korean but I do not belong to a Korean soccer team because I want to gain more different experiences playing soccer. My position is mid-fielder. When I play soccer, I do my best.

Islandstyle Sushi

By HAN JEON

The easiest food to prepare is "Islandstyle Sushi." First, you need to prepare warm rice, thickly sliced Spam, and strips of black seaweed ("nori"). Depending on your preference, you can add a spicy sauce such as a local hot pepper or Tabasco on top of the Spam. Second, put enough rice in a small bowl to hold a thickly sliced piece of Spam. Next, put a little water in the palm of your hand so that the rice does not stick to your palm. Third, shape the rice into a rectangle to fit a sliced Spam. Put the sliced Spam on top of the rice. For your last step, add a strip of black seaweed on top of the rice and Spam. Although it is not traditional Japanese sushi, "Islandstyle Sushi" is a simple and convenient food that can be eaten right away. You can also bring it to work for a nice snack.

The color red

By DONG MEI GU

Red is a very popular color in my country of China. People like the red color, because it represents enthusiasm, happiness, and blessing. For the New Year's celebration in China, each household will put wreaths of red on the door and windows as preparation also for the spring festival. The red wreaths represent blessing and good luck for the New Year. My country's flag is also colored red. The red represents peace. When I see my country's flag, my heart is very proud. I really like the red color. I always have red colors in my life. I like to wear red clothes and red shoes. If you see my room, you will see a red computer and red furniture. So the red color is very important in my life.

STALKING

From Page 10

INA chimera, widows and widowers whose U.S. citizen (USC) spouses died prior to Oct. 28, 2009, were allowed until Oct. 28, 2011, to file their surviving spouse green card petitions, no matter when the USC spouse died. We have processed a number of these over the past couple of years. This past week we became aware of at least three widow applicants in the CNMI whose applications were denied, we are told, because the USC spouses died too long ago. We intend to investigate and report on this; although after Oct. 28, 2011, the familiar "apply within two years of the USC spouse's death" rule snapped back into place, there are a number of timely filed applications still pending. We wrote columns on this important addition to the INA in February 2010 and February 2011. Looks like it's going to be an annual project even though the filing deadline has passed. Stay tuned.

Beware the consul in Taiwan: Not all E-1/E-2 visa applicants (treaty traders and investors) are treated equally by the State Department and its proxies. In particular, expatriate citizens of the Republic of China (ROC, formerly known as Taiwan) get the short end of the diplomatic stick if they do not have close ties to the island of Taiwan itself. (This is an increasingly large political issue in the

ROC—see, for example, <http://tinyurl.com/7zu679b> for a report on demonstrations by Filipino-Taiwanese demanding equal rights.) We have a client, an ROC citizen who has been a resident of the CNMI for more than 25 years, who has a well-established business here, who easily qualified for an E-2. The American Institute in Taiwan, which handles consulate matters for the U.S. in Taiwan, agreed—and issued our client an E-2 visa good for three months and two entries to the U.S. Clearly, that is insufficient status for our client to continue running his business and his life on Saipan. The excuse? The consular official said that the Taiwanese government is responsible for the restriction. Something's wrong with the way our client was treated, and we'll report on it in detail in a future column, once we figure out a solution.

Social Security Catch-22: Green card applicants must show a certain minimum level of income in order to qualify for permanent resident status. There are several exceptions to this requirement; one of them is a showing that the applicant has contributed to the social security system for at least 40 quarters or 10 years. The process for obtaining proof of this is simple: go to your local SSA office and ask for a printout of your contributions. If the printout shows 40 quarters, you are good to go. We have a client who initially entered the CNMI as a contract worker with a false birth date. She was deemed too old for the job and the recruiter "fixed her papers" before com-

ing to the CNMI. Decades later, prior to applying for a green card, she went to her consulate, explained the situation, made an affidavit, and was issued a new passport under her true birth date. All of her intervening documents in the CNMI, however, had the false birth date, including her social security record. We realized she needed to change her birth date with SSA in order to use it as an exception to her income requirement. When she went to SSA, she was told that her record could not be changed until she becomes a permanent resident. Classic Catch-22: she can't qualify for a green card unless she gets her SSA record changed and she can't get her SSA record changed unless she has a green card. We are currently communicating with SSA to resolve the problem.

So we continue to stalk the INA chimera. It's like what they say about bears: Sometimes you eat the chimera, sometimes the chimera eats you.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarias@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

FAT

From Page 10

ger of frontline combat. The classic anti-war movie starring James Garner, the commander, and Emily, Julie Andrews, Americanized England as IBM and Apple is Americanizing China.

The commercialization of China is in full swing. The ads, the couture, and the culture are all being massaged along lines familiar to Madison Ave., NY. Budweiser is now the best selling beer being the NBA sponsor, the League highly promoted by Yao Ming, and now revved up by the emergence of Jeremy Lin of the Knicks.

Obama thanked Xi for the recent relaxation of restrictions of U.S. films to the China market. Movies at the local cinema charges the same price as what Kapolei in Oahu cost three weeks ago, yet my Chinese counterparts receive less than an eighth of the U.S. poverty level. Still, the numbers are there for an emerging middle class sufficiently Americanized to fork out the exorbitant price (relative to earning) if that was what it took to view the latest of Barbie and Ken, and the latest glitz from Hollywood!

It is on the binge that commercialized America and China do not differ. The U.S. as the largest developed economy and China as the largest developing economy are poster kids of the stuffing-your-face world. On the obesity column alone, China is fast catching up, with

no little thanks to the triumvirate of McDonalds-Pizza Hut-KFC and the fast food service ethos. Sedentary addiction to electronic gadgetry and the allure of the bucket seat are not too far behind.

Republican Rick Santorum penitently Shroves his Tuesday (Mitt Romney revisits Salt Lake City 1982 Winter Olympics) and Barack Obama might Mardi Gras the night away Insha'allah, but does it really matter? Mardi Grass in Louisiana and Copacabana are hardly religious festivals. Lent has claimed its old English meaning of "spring."

The commonality across any line is the liberal dosage of cholesterol but we'll hope we get more spring today than the stuffing. Enjoy Fat Tuesday!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▾76°

▲86° ▾76°

▲86° ▾76°

▲86° ▾76°

▲86° ▾76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota Thundershowers	▲85 ▾77
Palau Thunderstorms	▲86 ▾78
Yap Mostly Cloudy	▲89 ▾78
Chuuk Showers	▲89 ▾80
Pohnpei Showers	▲83 ▾79
Kosrae Showers	▲83 ▾79
Majuro Showers	▲85 ▾79

Around The Globe

Auckland Showers	▲72 ▾68
Beijing Partly Cloudy	▲48 ▾24
Hong Kong Showers	▲67 ▾64
Honolulu Partly Cloudy	▲79 ▾70
London Mostly Cloudy	▲54 ▾42
Los Angeles Sunny	▲70 ▾49
Manila Thundershowers	▲88 ▾77
Melbourne Sunny	▲77 ▾57
Miami Mostly Cloudy	▲76 ▾63
New York Partly Cloudy	▲49 ▾40
Osaka Partly Cloudy	▲53 ▾38
Paris Partly Cloudy	▲50 ▾30
Pusan Showers	▲51 ▾40
Rome Showers	▲62 ▾40
Salem Showers	▲51 ▾48
San Francisco Sunny	▲66 ▾51
Seoul Mostly Cloudy	▲51 ▾26
Tokyo Partly Cloudy	▲49 ▾40
Washington, DC Mostly Sunny	▲54 ▾41

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:39 AM	6:22 PM	Today	5:46 AM	5:46 PM
Wednesday	6:39 AM	6:23 PM	Wednesday	6:27 AM	6:37 PM
Thursday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM	Thursday	7:06 AM	7:26 PM
Friday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM	Friday	7:44 AM	8:15 PM
Saturday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM	Saturday	8:22 AM	9:03 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

ISLAND SNAPSHOT

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5

SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)

C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP

C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7

C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily

C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7

C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7

C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7

C05079 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6

C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7

C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily

DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7

DL297 4:25pm 7:15pm Daily

SAIPAN-Osaka (KIX)

OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1

OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX

OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7

DL581 4:10am 7:30am 1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN

OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM

DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT

C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM

C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM

C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM

C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau

OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN

C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM

C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN

OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

C05076/147 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM

OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN

OZ604/749 3:20pm 10:50pm Daily via ICN

C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; C2: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta

Business

Iran Oil Ministry: Exports cut to Britain, France

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran has halted oil shipments to Britain and France, the Oil Ministry said Sunday, in an apparent pre-emptive blow against the European Union after the bloc imposed sanctions on Iran's crucial fuel exports.

The EU imposed tough sanctions against Iran last month, which included a freeze of the country's central bank assets and an oil embargo set to begin in July. Iran's Oil Minister Rostam Qassemi had warned earlier this month that Tehran could cut off oil exports to "hostile" European nations. The 27-nation EU accounts for about 18 percent of Iran's oil exports.

The EU sanctions, along with other punitive measures imposed by the U.S., are part

of Western efforts to derail Iran's disputed nuclear program, which the West fears is aimed at developing atomic weapons. Iran denies the charges, and says its program is for peaceful purposes.

The spokesman for Iran's Oil Ministry, Ali Reza Nikzad-Rahbar, said on the ministry's website Sunday that "crude oil exports to British and French companies have been halted."

"We have our own customers and have no problem to sell and export our crude oil to new customers," he said.

Britain's Foreign Office declined comment, and there was no immediate response from French officials.

The semiofficial Mehr news agency said exports were sus-

pended to the two countries Sunday. It also said the National Iranian Oil Company has sent letters to some European refineries with an ultimatum to either sign long-term contracts of two to five years or be cut off.

Mehr did not specify which countries were sent the ultimatum, but Spain, Italy and Greece are among Europe's biggest buyers of Iranian oil.

Iran's targeting of Britain and France appeared to be a political decision to punish the two countries for supporting tougher sanctions against Iran over its nuclear program.

Sunday's announcement follows a flurry of contradictory signals by Iran about backlash against the EU for imposing a boycott on Iranian oil.

Delta begins full flat-bed seat installations on Boeing 747-400

Delta Air Lines is renovating its Boeing 747-400 aircraft fleet to include full flat-bed seats in the BusinessElite cabin and new "slim line" seats offering more personal space and individual in-seat entertainment throughout the Economy cabin.

The airline already has taken delivery of the first modified aircraft, which operated its first flight on Jan. 26, 2012 from Tokyo-Narita to Detroit. As modifications are completed throughout 2012, customers will increasingly see the upgraded aircraft on various routes across the Pacific and Atlantic. Customers will experience the new interiors on each 747 flown by Delta by October 2012.

BusinessElite

Each 747 will have 48 BusinessElite full flat-bed seats on the upper and lower deck of the aircraft featuring direct aisle access for every seat, a 110-volt universal power outlet, USB port and a personal LED reading lamp. In addition, each seat comes with a 15.4-inch widescreen video monitor with instant access to more than 1,000 entertainment options—more than any other U.S. carrier—including more than 300 films, 88 hours of television programming, nearly 100 hours of premium programming from HBO and Showtime, 27 video games and more than 5,000 digital music tracks.

Delta already offers more direct-aisle access seats than any other U.S. carrier. The new 747 BusinessElite seat, manufactured by Zodiac Aerospace, are approximately 80 inches in length and 20.5 inches wide, and will be arranged in an angled herringbone layout, similar to the flat-bed product currently offered on Delta's 777 fleet. Window seats will face outward, while center seats are angled toward each other. The new seats are 20 percent wider than those they replace and include a large dining table and side console. There are no middle or rear-facing seats.

"Our best customers want a full flat-bed seat with direct aisle access and the new BusinessElite configuration of our 747s provides them with an industry leading experience as they fly across the globe," said Glen Hauenstein, executive vice president-Marketing, Network and Revenue Management.

"The days of having to step over a sleeping customer in the seat next to you are over. These upgrades will make the 747 the premier aircraft in our international fleet and customers will immediately notice the improved experience."

To date, more than one-third of Delta's widebody international fleet has been upgraded with direct-aisle access full flat-bed seats and the airline's entire widebody international fleet of more than 140 aircraft will be flying with full flat-bed



767, 777 and Airbus A330 aircraft.

In addition to more leg room and recline, customers seated in Economy Comfort will enjoy priority boarding and complimentary spirits throughout the flight. These benefits are in addition to Delta's standard international Economy class amenities, including complimentary meals, beer, wine, entertainment, blankets and pillows.

Economy

Changes to the Economy cabin will be immediately evident as Delta transitions to a "slim line" seat, providing customers with up to two inches of additional knee clearance. All seats feature a headrest with adjustable wings, height and tilt, USB power and an industry-leading nine-inch touchscreen featuring personal on-demand entertainment including the same extensive library of entertainment choices as those offered in BusinessElite.

Installing full flat-bed seats on Delta's widebody international aircraft is a major component of the \$2 billion investment Delta is making in its product and customer experience. Delta's investment also includes work underway on Delta's new Terminal 4 at New York-JFK, opening in 2013, and the new Maynard H. Jackson Jr. International Terminal in Atlanta, opening in April of this year. Delta also will spend more than \$100 million to expand, renovate and consolidate terminals C and D at LaGuardia. Customers also will see Delta's investment in its more than 50 Delta Sky Clubs throughout the system, power poles at dozens of airports, mobile apps which include features such as baggage tracking and WiFi on more than 800 aircraft. (*Delta*)

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LAND EXCHANGE

In accordance with Public Law 5-33, Section 4(b) (3) the Public Purpose Land Exchange Authorization Act, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to enter into an exchange agreement to certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the exchange of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 5-33, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The purpose of the land exchange is to acquire a private property for public purpose. The private property is described as TR 21897-4R/W, containing an area of 1,683 square meters, more or less, situated in Takpochao, Saipan.
- ii. The public land to be exchanged is described as Lot 052 L 01, containing an area of 5,923 square meters more or less, located in Obyan, Saipan.
- iii. The private property is owned by Ms. Benedicta C. Tenorio a resident of Saipan.
- iv. A copy of the proposed land exchange agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan.
- v. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before February 29, 2012 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN MA' ATULAKAN TANO' PUBLIKU

Sigun gi halom I Lai Publiku 5-33 Seksiona 4 (b)(3), Public Purpose Land Exchange Act, I Depattamenton I Tano' Publiku guini ha nā' i notisia i intension-ña para u ma' atulaikan pumalu na tano' publiku siha gi halom Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan Na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha hāyi manentiresāo na petsona siha gi halom I publiku henerā siña munna' hālom infotmasion, opīñon, pat testamonion kinentra gi tinahguen i proposito siha para I uma' atulaikan I tano' publiku. Komu mās mapribeniyi ginen Lai Publiku 5-33, pettanesen infotmasion ni dinimānda na para u mapuplika.

- i. I maproponen i ma' atulaikan tano' para uma' chule I tano' private para uson publiku. I diskripsion I tineteka na tano' komo TR 21897-4R/W, kinensisite i ária 1,683 na dinankulon tano, potlumenus mās, gaige giya Takpochao, Saipan.
- ii. I diskripsion i tano' publiku Lot 052 L 01, kinensisite i ária 5,923 square meters, potlumenus mās, gaige giya Obyan, Saipan.
- iii. I dwennon tano' si Sinora Benedicta C. Tenorio, residente Saipan.
- iv. I kopian a maproponen i ma' atulaikan tano' siña machule' gi ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano' Publiku, gaige gi sigundo bibienda gi as Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan.
- v. I Secretarian i Depattamenton Tano' Publiku para hu aksepta I tinigi i opīñon, pat testamonion kinentra gi tinahguen i mapropone na ma' atulakan tano' publiku antes osino gi dia Febreru 29, 2012 gi Depattamenton Tano'.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL SIIWELIL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Alleghú Toulap 5-33 Section 4 (b)(3), Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe siiwel eghús faluw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téel Falúwasch Marianas. Schóóka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghighiir, awwewe, aingiingi reel pomwol siiwel yeel. Alléghú Toulap ye 5-3 Section 4 (b)(3) e ayoora, lamaal awwewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéeló.

- i. Pomwol siiwelil falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári TR 21897-4R/W, eyoor ruwabwúghúw eliigh me eew (1,683 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Takpochao. Tilighial buley yeel nge, eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap ngáre óubwe ghuley fishey.
- ii. Falúweer toulap yeel nge Lot 052 L 01, eyoor ruwabwúghúw eliigh me eew 5,923 lapel faluw ye, elo Obyan, Seipél.
- iii. Ms. Benedicta C. Tenorio elollo, Seipél, yaal faluw ye ebwe siiwel ngale falúweer toulap.
- iv. Tilighial siiwel yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughí mereel mwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building loll Tuturam, Seipél.
- v. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughí ischil mágemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal Mââischigh 29, 2012, mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél.

Nation

Santorum questions Obama's 'world view,' not faith

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rick Santorum on Sunday condemned what he called President Barack Obama's world view that "elevates the Earth above man" and requires insurers to pay for prenatal tests that will encourage more abortions.

A day after telling an Ohio audience that Obama's agenda is based on "some phony the-

ology, not a theology based on the Bible," the GOP presidential candidate said he wasn't criticizing the president's Christianity.

"I've repeatedly said I don't question the president's faith. I've repeatedly said that I believe the president's Christian," Santorum told CBS' "Face the Nation."

"I am talking about his world view, and the way he approaches problems in this country. I think they're different than how most people do in America," he said in the broadcast interview.

The former Pennsylvania senator said Obama's environmental policies promote ideas of "radical environmentalists," who, Santorum argues, oppose

greater use of the country's natural resources because they believe "man is here to serve the Earth." He said that was the reference he was making Saturday in his Ohio campaign appearance when he denounced a "phony theology."

"I think that is a phony ideal. I don't believe that is what we're here to do," Santorum said. "We're not here to serve the Earth. The Earth is not the objective. Man is the objective."

Obama's campaign said Santorum's remarks were another

attack on the president's faith by Republican rivals in a nominating contest that has grown increasingly bitter and negative.

"It's just time to get rid of this mindset in our politics that, if we disagree, we have to question character and faith," said Robert Gibbs, Obama's former press secretary, on ABC's "This Week."

"Those days have long passed in our politics. Our problems and our challenges are far too great," Gibbs said.

Santorum said his claim that

Obama's health care overhaul encourages abortions stems from the fact that insurance companies are required to pay for prenatal testing, which he said will result in more pregnant women having more procedures. He specified amniocentesis, a procedure that can identify physical problems in the unborn.

"The bottom line is a lot of prenatal tests are done to identify deformities in utero and the customary procedure is to encourage abortion," he said.



Republican presidential candidate, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum speaks during a campaign stop at the Christ Redeemer Church, Sunday, Feb. 19, 2012, in Cumming, Ga.

Sex-changing treatment for kids: It's on the rise

CHICAGO (AP)—A small but growing number of teens and even younger children who think they were born the wrong sex are getting support from parents and from doctors who give them sex-changing treatments, according to reports in the medical journal *Pediatrics*.

It's an issue that raises ethical questions, and some experts urge caution in treating children with puberty-blocking drugs and hormones.

An 8-year-old second-grader in Los Angeles is a typical patient. Born a girl, the child announced at 18 months, "I a boy" and has stuck with that belief. The family was shocked but now refers to the child as a boy and is watching for the first signs of puberty to begin treatment, his mother told The Associated Press.

Pediatricians need to know these kids exist and deserve treatment, said Dr. Norman Spack, author of one of three reports published Monday and director of one of the nation's first gender identity medical clinics, at Children's Hospital Boston.

"If you open the doors, these are the kids who come. They're out there. They're in your practices," Spack said in an interview.

Switching gender roles and occasionally pretending to be the opposite sex is common in young children. But these kids are different. They feel certain they were born with the wrong bodies.

Some are labeled with "gender identity disorder," a psy-



AP

In this Dec. 12, 2011 photo provided by Children's Hospital Boston, Dr. Norman Spack, of Children's Hospital Boston, poses for a photograph.

ered into treatment by parents more comfortable with a sex change than having a homosexual child, said Moon, who teaches at the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics.

It's harmful "to have an irreversible treatment too early," Moon said.

Doctors who provide the treatment say withholding it would be more harmful.

These children sometimes resort to self-mutilation to try to change their anatomy; the other two journal reports note that some face verbal and physical abuse and are prone to stress, depression and suicide attempts. Spack said those problems typically disappear in kids who've had treatment and are allowed to live as the opposite sex.

Guidelines from the Endocrine Society endorse transgender hormone treatment but say it should not be given before puberty begins. At that point, the guidelines recommend puberty-blocking drugs until age 16, then lifelong sex-changing hormones with monitoring for potential health risks.

Mental health professionals should be involved in the process, the guidelines say. The group's members are doctors who treat hormonal conditions.

Those guidelines, along with YouTube videos by sex-changing teens and other media attention, have helped raise awareness about treatment and led more families to seek help, Spack said.

These party leaders and activists, from the states voting Feb. 28 and the most contested ones ahead in the fall, say Romney has made strides toward addressing this problem. But, they say, he needs to do more to convince the Republican base that he's running to fundamentally reverse the nation's course, not simply manage what they see as the federal government's mess.

"I think Romney will be the

Romney leads in the delegate count for the nomination, and by a wide margin in private polling ahead of the Arizona primary Feb. 28. But the rising challenge from former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum in the contest also that day in Michigan, where Romney was born and raised, underscores doubts about Romney's ability to ignite fervor in the GOP base.

He nearly tied Santorum in Iowa, although entrance polls showed that more of Santorum's backers than Romney's said they were strongly behind their chosen candidate.

Every February Yosemite waterfall turns to lava

By TRACIE CONE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, California (AP)—A window of time just opened in Yosemite National Park when nature photographers wait, as if for an eclipse, until the moment when the sun and earth align to create a fleeting phenomenon.

This marvel of celestial configuration happens in a flash at sunset in mid-February—if the winter weather cooperates. On those days the setting sun illuminates one of the park's lesser-known waterfalls so precisely that it resembles molten lava as it flows over the sheer granite face of the imposing El Capitan.

Every year growing numbers of photographers converge on the park, their necks craned toward the ephemeral Horsetail Fall, hoping the sky will be clear so they can view the spectacle first recorded in color in 1973 by the late renowned outdoors

photographer Galen Rowell.

"Horsetail is so uniquely situated that I don't know of any other waterfall on earth that gets that kind of light," said Michael Frye, who wrote the book "The Photographer's Guide to Yosemite."

"How many are perched on a high open cliff? Most are in an alcove or canyon and won't get the sun setting behind it. Yosemite's special geography makes this fall distinctive," he said.

Four decades ago, photographers had only to point and shoot to capture another famous Yosemite firefall—a man-made cascade of embers pushed from a bonfire on summer nights from Glacier Point.

But photographing Horsetail is a lesson in astronomy, physics and geometry as hopefuls consider the azimuth degrees and minutes of the earth's orbit relative to the sun to determine the optimal day to experience it. They are looking for the

lowest angle of light that will paint Horsetail the colors of an iridescent sunset as rays reflect off granite behind the water. It materializes in varying degrees of intensity for the same two weeks every year.

"If you hit it at just the right time, it turns this amazing color of gold or red-orange," said Frye, a photo instructor with the Ansel Adams Gallery in the park.

Adams photographed the fall, but his iconic black and white images do not capture its fiery quality, and it's unclear whether he ever noted it.

To be successful in photographing the watery firefall, it takes luck and timing, and the cooperation of nature. Horsetail Fall drains a small area on the eastern summit of El Capitan and flows only in the winter and spring in years with adequate rain and snow, which is scarce this year. Experts say it doesn't take a lot of water for the fall to light up.

Asia

Seoul holds military drills despite NKorea threat

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea on Monday conducted live-fire military drills from five islands near its disputed sea boundary with North Korea, despite Pyongyang's threat to attack.

South Korea reported no immediate action by North Korea following the drills, which ended after about two hours. The drills took place in an area of the Yellow Sea that was the target of a North Korean artillery attack in 2010 that killed four South Koreans and raised fears of a wider conflict.

■ ■ ■

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korea will launch "merciless" strikes if South Korea goes through with planned live-fire drills Monday in a disputed front-line area near their disputed sea border, a North Korean officer warned in an interview with The Associated Press.

North Korea doesn't want a war but its people are always ready to "dedicate their blood to defend their inviolable territory," officer Sin Chol Ung from the North's Korean People's Security Forces told AP on Sunday as South Korean troops prepared to hold



South Korean marines walk to board a ship leaving for Baengnyeong Island at Incheon port in Incheon, west of Seoul, South Korea, Monday, Feb. 20, 2012. AP

the drills in an area that was the target of a deadly artillery attack in 2010.

■ ■ ■

The heightened tension comes two months after the death of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il. His young son Kim Jong Un has taken the helm of the nation of 24 million.

South Korean military officials said they were ready to repel any attack. Residents on the

front-line islands were asked to go to underground shelters before the drills started, according to South Korea's Defense Ministry and Joint Chiefs of Staff.

North Korea's military maintained increased vigilance during the South Korean drills, though it hasn't done anything suspicious, a South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff officer said

on condition of anonymity, citing department rules. He re-

fused to provide further details because he said they involve confidential military intelligence on North Korea.

Before the drills began, North Korea said it would launch a "thousands-fold more severe" punishment than the 2010 shelling if South Korea conducted the drills.

North Korea is fully prepared for a "total war," and the drills will lead to a "complete collapse" of ties between the Koreas, the North's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea said in a statement carried Monday by the official Korean Central News Agency.

Seoul is closely monitoring North Korea's reaction. The Korean peninsula has been technically at war for about 60 years.

Officials from North Korea and the United States are to meet this week in Beijing for talks on the country's nuclear weapons program. The discussions will be the first such bilat-

eral contact since Kim Jong Il's Dec. 17 death.

Ties between the Koreas plummeted following the 2010 shelling of front-line Yeonpyeong Island and a deadly warship sinking blamed on Pyongyang. North Korea has flatly denied its involvement in the sinking, which killed 46 South Korean sailors.

South Korean troops on the five islands fired artillery into waters southward, away from nearby North Korea, a Defense Ministry official said on condition of anonymity, citing department rules.

Residents on the islands, many of them elderly, fled into underground bomb shelters and huddled around portable heaters during the drills.

More than 1,000 people evacuated to shelters, but few came to the mainland, despite the North Korean threat, according to Onjin County, which governs the islands. Ferry services linking the islands and Incheon

port on the mainland operated normally, county officials said. Officials say requests to evacuate are made each time South Korea conducts drills.

Soon after Seoul told Pyongyang of its live-fire training plans Sunday, North Korea's military called the drills a "pre-meditated military provocation" and warned it would retaliate for an attack on its territory.

A North Korean officer warned in an interview Sunday with The Associated Press in Pyongyang that North Koreans were always ready to "dedicate their blood to defend their inviolable territory."

The maritime line separating the countries was drawn by the U.S.-led U.N. Command without Pyongyang's consent at the close of the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended with a truce, not a peace treaty. North Korea routinely argues that the line should run farther south.

On Yeonpyeong Island, which is just seven miles (11 kilometers) from North Korean shores, about 490 people evacuated to shelters, while the rest of the 600 to 700 residents stayed at home or went to work as usual, an island official said in a phone interview, speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to talk to reporters.

South Korea also plans joint anti-submarine drills with the United States this week, but the training site is farther south from the disputed sea boundary, South Korean military officials said. About 28,500 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea as what U.S. and South Korean officials call deterrence against North Korean aggression.

North Korea says joint U.S.-South Korea drills are a rehearsal for a northward invasion.

Myanmar state media: dissident monk to be charged

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A dissident monk who helped lead an anti-government uprising is facing new legal action, in part for breaking into monasteries sealed by the former military junta after the mass street protests five years ago, state media reported Sunday.

Shin Gambira is facing charges of "squatting" illegally in a monastery shut down by the government and breaking into two others, the state-run New Light of Myanmar said.

The 33-year-old monk was one of the leaders of the Saffron Revolution, a 2007 uprising led by Buddhist monks against the then-ruling military junta that saw the streets of the main city, Yangon, swell with some 100,000 demonstrators.

The army brutally crushed the protests and shut down some monasteries in the aftermath. The uprising was named

after the color of robes worn by the militant young monks who spearheaded it.

Gambira was jailed during those protests, but released on Jan. 13 after half a decade behind bars. His freedom came as part of a mass prisoner release that has been hailed as a sign of Myanmar's new government's willingness to make reforms.

Earlier this month, authorities briefly detained Gambira again and questioned him in regard to breaking into monasteries illegally after he allegedly ignored a summons to report for questioning. Gambira was released shortly afterward.

Among other complaints, Gambira alleged that the central, state-sponsored central Buddhist monk's body, the State Sangha Nayaka Committee, had not pushed for the freedom of 43 other monks arrested

The United States and European Union have called the progress positive steps forward but say they will be closely watching an upcoming April by-election before deciding whether to lift sanctions that were imposed during military rule.

The country's nominally civilian government came to power last year after half a century of army rule.

India detains Italians accused in fatal shooting

NEW DELHI (AP)—Indian police on Sunday detained two Italian marine security guards for allegedly shooting to death two Indian fishermen they mistook for pirates.

The suspects were brought ashore in southern India and placed in custody for further questioning, police said.

The two Italians were part of a six-member security team on the cargo ship the Enrica Lexie, and are suspected of firing Wednesday on an Indian fishing boat they mistook for a pirate ship off Kerala state. Two fishermen were killed instantly.

Italy's ambassador to India and a delegation of experts from Italy's foreign, defense and justice ministries arrived in the capital Sunday and discussed the case with Indian officials, the Italian foreign ministry said in a statement.

The Italian government maintains the case should be handled by its own judicial authorities "since the deeds happened in international waters on an Italian-flagged ship," the statement said.

The Italians contend that the presence of military personnel aboard the cargo ship

is governed by an Italian law conforming to U.N. anti-piracy resolutions, and that such personnel are part of the Italian state and thus immune to the jurisdiction of foreign states.

The meeting failed to yield agreement, the ministry said.

Piracy has emerged as a major threat to merchant ships in the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea, with Somalia-based pirates hijacking ships and crew for ransom.

Several countries, including India, allow ship owners to deploy armed security guards on ships.

vilian was killed in the crossfire. Mamburam says guards bolstered security at the jail before the attack after being warned by police, who received intelligence reports that Muslim rebels were planning an assault to rescue a jailed comrade.

Report: Tibet monk self-immolates in China's west

BEIJING (AP)—An overseas group says a Tibetan monk has died after setting himself on fire at a monastery in western China's Sichuan province. The London-based International Campaign for Tibet said on Monday that 18-year-old Nangdrol self-immolated on Sunday after shouting slogans in favor of Tibetan independence and exiled Tibetan leader the Dalai Lama. His death brings to at least 21 the number of Tibetans who have set themselves on fire over the past year to protest Chinese government policies over Tibetan society and the Buddhist religion. Chinese security has cut off access to Tibetan areas, making it virtually impossible to independently confirm such acts.

Gunmen attack Philippine city jail, 1 dead

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine police official says suspected Muslim rebels have attacked a jail in a southern city to free a comrade but were repulsed by authorities. Police Senior Supt. Chino Mamburam says the gunmen fired two grenades at the Kidapawan city jail and then engaged policemen and guards in a brief firefight before withdrawing. At least one ci-

ASIAN BRIEFS

Lawyers say charges against Bali bomber obscure

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Lawyers for the Indonesian militant who assembled bombs used in the 2002 nightclub blasts on Bali island say the country's tough anti-terrorism law can't be applied in this case. They also told the court Umar Patek didn't take part in preplanning meetings and is therefore not guilty of premeditated murder. The trial for 45-year-old militant kicked off last week. He faces a maximum penalty of death for his role in the Bali attacks that killed 202 people.

Gunmen attack Philippine city jail, 1 dead

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine police official says suspected Muslim rebels have attacked a jail in a southern city to free a comrade but were repulsed by authorities. Police Senior Supt. Chino Mamburam says the gunmen fired two grenades at the Kidapawan city jail and then engaged policemen and guards in a brief firefight before withdrawing. At least one ci-

World

US, Britain urge Israel not to attack Iran

JERUSALEM(AP)—The U.S. and Britain on Sunday urged Israel not to attack Iran's nuclear program as the White House's national security adviser arrived in the region, reflecting growing international jitters that the Israelis are poised to strike.

In their warnings, both the chairman of the U.S. joint chiefs of staff, Gen. Martin Dempsey, and British Foreign Secretary William Hague said an Israeli attack on Iran would have grave consequences for the entire region and urged Israel to give international sanctions against Tehran more time to work. Dempsey said an Israeli attack is "not prudent," and Hague said it would not be "a wise thing." It was not known whether their messages were coordinated.

Both Israel and the West believe Iran is trying to develop a nuclear bomb—a charge Tehran denies. But differences have emerged in how to respond to the perceived threat.

The U.S. and the European Union have both imposed harsh new sanctions targeting Iran's oil sector, the lifeline of the Iranian economy. With the sanctions just beginning to bite, they have expressed optimism that Iran can be persuaded to curb its nuclear ambitions.

On Sunday, Iran's Oil Ministry said it has halted oil shipments to Britain and France in an apparent pre-emptive blow against the European Union. The semiofficial Mehr news agency said the National Ira-



In this Nov. 3, 2011 file photo, Israeli soldiers from the Home Front command rescue unit acting as wounded lay on the ground as smoke billows during a Home Front command drill simulating a rocket hitting the Mikve Israel agriculture school in Holon near Tel Aviv, Israel.

nian Oil Company has sent letters to some European refineries with an ultimatum to either sign long-term contracts of two to five years or be cut off. The 27-nation EU accounts for about 18 percent of Iran's oil exports.

Israel has welcomed the sanctions. But it has pointedly refused to rule out military action and in recent weeks sent signals that its patience is running thin.

Israel believes a nuclear-armed Iran would be a threat to its very

existence, citing Iran's support for Arab militant groups, its sophisticated arsenal of missiles capable of reaching Israel and its leaders' calls for the destruction of the Jewish state.

Last week, Israel accused Iran of being behind a string of attempted attacks on Israeli diplomats in India, Georgia and Thailand.

There is precedent for Israeli action. In 1981, the Israeli air force destroyed an unfinished

Iraqi nuclear reactor. And in 2007, Israeli warplanes are believed to have destroyed a target that foreign experts think was an unfinished nuclear reactor in Syria.

Experts, however, have questioned how much an Israeli operation would accomplish. With Iran's nuclear installations scattered and buried deep underground, it is believed that an Iranian strike would set back, but not destroy, Iran's nuclear program.

There are also concerns Iran

could fire missiles at Israel, get its local proxies Hezbollah and Hamas to launch rockets into the Jewish state, and cause global oil prices to spike by striking targets in the Gulf.

In an interview broadcast on CNN Sunday, Dempsey said Israel has the capability to strike Iran and delay the Iranians "probably for a couple of years. But some of the targets are probably beyond their reach."

He expressed concern that

an Israeli attack could spark reprisals against U.S. targets in the Gulf or Afghanistan, where American forces are based.

"That's the question with which we all wrestle. And the reason that we think that it's not prudent at this point to decide to attack Iran," Dempsey said.

Describing Iran as a "rational actor," Dempsey said he believed that the international sanctions on Iran are beginning to have an effect. "For that reason, I think, that we think the current path we're on is the most prudent path at this point."

The arrival of White House National Security Adviser Tom Donilon was the latest in a series of high-level meetings between Israel and the U.S. Last month, Dempsey visited Israel, and next month, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is expected to visit the White House.

Donilon was set to meet with Netanyahu late Sunday, and with Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak on Monday before leaving.

Asked whether he believed Israel could be deterred from striking, Dempsey said: "I'm confident that they understand our concerns, that a strike at this time would be destabilizing and wouldn't achieve their long-term objectives. But, I mean, I also understand that Israel has national interests that are unique to them."

Hague delivered a similar message in Britain. Speaking to the BBC, he said Britain was focused on pressuring Iran through diplomatic means.

2 judicial officials slain in Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—Gunmen in Syria staged a guerrilla-style ambush that killed a senior state prosecutor and a judge Sunday in an attack that suggested armed factions are growing bolder and more coordinated in their uprising against President Bashar Assad's regime.

The roadway slayings—reported in an opposition-dominated northern region by the Syrian state news agency—came a day after a deadly hit-and-run attack on a political figure in the heart of the pro-Assad city of Aleppo.

The targeted killings have not reached Assad's inner circle, but they indicate a growing shift toward violent tactics by the opposition as it brings aboard more military defectors and seeks to tighten control over the small pieces of territory in its hands.

The fears of a looming civil war have neighboring Jordan racing to finish a refugee camp near the Syrian border to handle a possible exodus of people fleeing for safety.

Meanwhile, Egypt became the latest Arab nation to pub-

licly snub Assad by ordering the withdrawal of its ambassador in Damascus.

The Syrian government has offered some concessions, including proposing a referendum next week that could allow more political voices to challenge Assad's Baath Party. But the opposition demands nothing short of Assad's resignation. And the regime has not eased off its attacks on the opposition forces, which it describes as "terrorists" carrying out a foreign conspiracy to destabilize the country.

In Homs in central Syria, government forces sent in reinforcements as they shelled the rebel-held Baba Amr district that has been under constant barrage for nearly two weeks, said the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The group said at least 14 people were killed Sunday across Syria, half of them by government troops.

"I'm worried that Syria is going to slide into a civil war," British Foreign Secretary William Hague told the BBC on Sunday.

44 killed in Mexico prison riot; guards detained

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP)—An inmate riot that may have been staged to cover a breakout killed 44 prisoners Sunday, and the jail's director and all guards on duty at the time have been detained, a security official said.

Nuevo Leon state public security spokesman Jorge Domene Zambrano said the riot broke out at about 2 a.m. in a high-security section of a state prison in the city of Apodaca

outside the northern industrial city of Monterrey.

The fight between two cell blocks, each with about 750 prisoners, may have been staged as a cover for a prison break, he said. Domene said in counting the dead, officials discovered some prisoners missing, but didn't know yet how many.

Forty-four people died before state police regained control about two hours later.

Investigators are looking into

whether the fight was started by members of the rival Gulf and Zeta cartels, once the same organization. Their split two years ago has caused a spike in violence in the region around Monterrey, Mexico's third-largest and once the country's symbol of development and prosperity.

The prison had members of both gangs, who were normally separated, fueling theories that the 17 guards on duty could have been involved. The prison

director, the director of security and a supervisor also are being held, Domene said.

The victims died from makeshift knives and blows, Domene said, adding that no firearms were found among the prisoners.

Deadly fights happen periodically in Mexico's prisons as gangs and drug cartels stage jail breaks and battle for control of penitentiaries, often with the involvement of officials. Sunday's riot was one of the deadliest so far.

WORLD BRIEFS

Bomb near car explodes in Nigeria, wounding 5

SULEJA, Nigeria (AP)—A bomb planted by an abandoned car exploded outside a church in the middle of a worship service Sunday near Nigeria's capital, wounding five people amid a continuing wave of violence by a radical Islamist sect, authorities and witnesses said. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the blast outside the Christ Embassy church in Suleja, a city near the nation's capital Abuja. However, the area has been targeted in the past by the sect known as Boko Haram—including the Christmas Day car bombing of a Catholic church nearby that killed at least 44 people.

Bus runs off cliff in Ecuador; 29 reported dead

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—Ecuadorian authorities say a bus has toppled over a cliff on a northern road, killing 27 adults and two children. National Traffic Agency director Mauricio Pena announced the

death toll at a news conference Sunday and said the driver was among those killed. He says an additional 27 people are injured. Police Capt. Fernanda Albuja says the bus ran off the road near the town of Quajara. Red Cross official Diego Castellanos is blaming speeding for the accident.

20 people killed in Iraqi police academy blast

BAGHDAD (AP)—A suicide bomber detonated his car Sunday as a group of police recruits left their academy in Baghdad, killing 20 in the latest strike on security officials that angry residents blamed on political feuding that is roiling Iraq. Police said the suicide bomber was waiting on the street outside the fortified academy near the Interior Ministry in an eastern neighborhood in the Iraqi capital. As the crowd of recruits exited the compound's security barriers around 1 p.m. and walked into the road, police said the bomber drove toward them and blew up his car.

Focus

Chen case: Asian-American soldiers endure bias



AP

In this Jan. 20, 2012 photo, Daniel Kim poses for a photograph at his home in the Queens borough of New York. Kim is a former U.S. Army Staff Sergeant. Kim is a 39-year-old Korean-American who spent 12 years in the infantry before leaving the service in 2004.

By DEEPTI HAJELA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The harassment of 19-year-old Danny Chen started in basic training—teasing about his name, repeated questions of whether he was from China, even though he was a born-and-raised New Yorker. He wrote in his journal that he was running out of jokes to respond with.

It got worse in Afghanistan, military investigators told his family. They said the other men in his unit showered Chen, the only Chinese-American in his unit, with racial slurs and physical abuse in the weeks leading up to his suicide in early October. Eight soldiers have been charged in connection with his death.

For some Asian-Americans who have served in the military, the racial prejudice aspect of Chen's alleged mistreatment comes with little surprise based on what they've seen or experienced. But others say the military is a place where everyone's limits are tested, and that the failure in Chen's case is one of leadership.

It's unclear how often military members experience racial bullying. Despite repeated requests, the Army did not pro-

vide any data and the Department of Defense said it didn't have any information since the service branches are each responsible for their own record-keeping. The Army did say that it has regulations against hazing and bullying in place.

Vietnam War veteran David Oshiro isn't surprised to hear of the accusations of racial prejudice. The 63-year-old Japanese-American said he didn't

"It still upsets me, because I keep thinking, 'We're on the same team!'"

That wasn't Rajiv Srinivasan's experience. The 25-year-old Afghanistan veteran said sure, there were jokes about his Indian heritage from those who served with him. If they approached disrespect, he said he shut it down.

"No matter what race or ethnicity,

Among those implicated are a lieutenant and several non-commissioned officers.

"Who else knew? Who else didn't speak up?" asked Kim, who now lives in the New York City borough of Queens.

The Asian-American presence is small in the military, as in the U.S. population. The most recent data show 43,579 Asian-Americans on active duty in 2010, making up 3.7 percent of those enlisted. Most

They were later allowed to serve, segregated into the 100th Battalion, which was later put with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The 442nd became the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in U.S. military history.

The Vietnam War had its own concerns, as Asian-Americans who fought alongside other Americans in an Asian country were sometimes lumped in with the enemy.

Chen's death was "a wake-up call" that issues remain, said Elizabeth Ouyang, a Chinese community activist who has been a spokeswoman for his parents, who don't speak English.

Asian-Americans "have always just wanted to belong, to feel like part of America, and the ultimate way of doing that is by fighting for your country," she said.

Chen's situation sent "shockwaves through our community, that our effort to integrate, to contribute, to be part of America, is so undercut by the treatment that Danny received," Ouyang said.

She said Chen's parents are determined to find justice.

"I've seen them slowly go from grieving to anger to wanting justice for their son," she said.

The great American myth about the U.S. military is that racism doesn't exist. It's alive and well.

have problems with the men in his unit but often heard slurs from other enlisted Americans. When he was injured, military Medevac personnel assumed he was Vietnamese and nearly delayed his evacuation until all the soldiers they thought were American had been flown out.

"I got really upset, I started yelling back, 'I'm an American. You get my ass out of here now,'" the San Rafael, California, resident said.

the Army is going to test the solidity of your character and your identity," the Ashburn, Virginia, resident said. "You could be the quintessential military brat-turned-soldier from Fort Benning, Georgia; the culture of the Army is still going to be pushing you."

Daniel Kim, a 39-year-old Korean-American who spent 12 years in the infantry before leaving in 2004, questioned the leadership in Chen's unit.

were in the Army or Navy.

Among the officer corps, a little more than 8,400 were Asian-American in 2010, or 3.9 percent.

They're people like Anu Bhagwati. The 36-year-old Indian-American woman spent five years in the Marines, and said she left in 2004 largely because she was facing discrimination and harassment, even as an officer.

In her case, gender was the big issue,

Overdrive

With the 2013 GS 350 sedan, Lexus is aiming to appeal to a buyer's passions after building a reputation for unexciting design. MCT



NUTS & BOLTS

Base price: \$47,775 (including destination charge)

Price, as tested: \$50,910

Powertrain: 3.5-liter, DOHC, direct-injected V-6; six-speed automatic transmission with manual mode and paddle shifters

Horsepower: 306 at 6,400 rpm

Torque: 277 pound-feet at 4,800 rpm

0-60 mph: 5.7 seconds

Curb weight: 3,795 pounds

Wheelbase: 112.2 inches

Overall length: 190.7 inches

EPA fuel economy: 19/28 mpg city/highway

Final thoughts: Walks the walk, but can't talk the talk.

2013 Lexus GS 350's passion found in its performance, not looks

By David Undercoffler

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Like first-timers at a keg party or a cheesehead's trek to Lambeau, Lexus is on a quest for passion and it couldn't come at a more critical time.

Toyota's luxury division lost the title of America's bestselling luxury brand in 2011 for the first time in 11 years. Lexus rightly blames Japan's earthquake and tsunami and their effect on supply chains, but have you driven the company's product line recently? A \$400,000 supercar notwithstanding, my daily bowl of Grape-Nuts is more exciting.

Which brings us to the 2013 Lexus GS 350 sedan, which went on sale this month.

With it, and the dramatic LF-LC concept car shown at the Detroit auto show, the company is finally looking to appeal to a buyer's passions more strongly. The hope is, a little more danger and a little more leg might just result in a little more luck with sales numbers.

When viewed in this context, the new GS gets both a gold star and a demerit. From a pure driving standpoint, this Lexus absolutely moves the emotion needle. This is no easy task given the milquetoast version that preceded it and a roster of competitors that in-

cludes BMW's 5-Series, Audi's A6 and Infiniti's M. Sadly, the new design is a missed opportunity. Like a 12-year-old scotch in a dollar-store thermos, it falls short of matching the car's performance and its maker's ambitions.

The GS' aesthetics start out nicely in the front. More demure in person than in photos, the nose of the car features what Lexus calls its spindle grille, a design feature that literally and figuratively leads the way for the future of Lexus' vehicles. Complementing the angles this grille introduces is a bowed bumper and lower fascia that's one brush stroke shy of over-styled.

Move past the front end and you've moved past all the style worth mentioning. The rear end is plain and unadorned; the chrome-tipped tailpipes are the only element that hint at passion or originality. The rest is a near carbon copy of Lexus' lesser IS sedan, or if I may be so crass to say so in a luxury car review, a Hyundai Sonata.

Fortunately, this dearth of aesthetic moxie doesn't seep into the GS cabin. It's handsomely designed with a horizontally oriented layout, the centerpiece of which is a massive 12.3-inch, high-resolution screen. It's yours for \$1,735, though nearly every new GS will come with it (my test car went for \$50,910).

Two-thirds of the display is gener-

ally for navigation purposes, with the other third for either audio, climate control or trip data. The system is controlled by what looks and feels like a computer mouse glued to your center console. It uses a joystick-like knob to input commands, and once you get used to it, it's more functional than the traditional dial.

Below the extra-wide screen is an analog clock surrounded by attractive brushed metal trim and redundant buttons for the climate control. The rest of the cabin has bits of similar metal throughout and can be paired with several different matte wood trim options. The always-welcoming seats can be ordered with treated leather; leather also covers the interior or panels, the steering wheel and the shift knob. Space is about the same as the previous GS, though the trunk grows by 1 1/2 cubic feet.

Other features include LED cabin lighting and a text-to-speech feature that will read your incoming emails to you and allow you to respond with predetermined answers like "I'm running late," "See you in five minutes" and, if your 14-year-old daughter steals your car and the cops email her, "LOL."

Available options include a night-vision system, a heads-up display, radar cruise control, lane keeping assist and a 17-speaker, 835-watt Mark Levinson

sound system.

The whole effect is a civilized balance between old-world luxury culled from cows and trees, and the modern, tech-heavy menu appreciated by the demographic Lexus is hoping to pull into the GS.

Powering this confluence is a 3.5-liter, direct-injected V-6 that's largely a carry-over from the previous GS 350. In this generation, it makes 306 horsepower and 277 pound-feet of torque, gains of three each. This mill moves the rear wheels (all-wheel drive is a \$2,550 option) via a six-speed automatic transmission with manual shifting and paddle shifters. Lexus says the rear-wheel drive version is good for a 5.7-second zero-to-60 acceleration time.

The GS 350 is rated at 19 miles per gallon in the city and 28 on the highway. In almost 400 miles of testing, I averaged 21 mpg.

On the road, the GS 350 is finally a Lexus that can dance. The steering is quick and responsive, and it provides good feedback to the driver. The car itself is nicely balanced and poised, even under dramatic circumstances. It moves with a dynamic confidence that earns the moniker "sport sedan," rather than abusing the term as a platitude. Agility is favored over raw power, though the GS could use a little more of the latter.

In straight lines and freeway cruising, the transmission shifts are subtle and smooth, while acceleration is uniform and measured. The engine emits into the cabin a soft purr by way of something called an "intake sound generator." When I was a kid, the engines made the sound, but with layers of sound dampening to keep out road and wind noise (which this GS does quite well), this is what we're reduced to.

If the generic GS 350 isn't enough sugar for your coffee, consider one of two variants. A GS F Sport adds to the GS 350 items such as larger wheels and front brakes, a re-tuned suspension, variable-ratio steering and a more aggressive front bumper and mesh grille. Look for it to be the promotional darling of Lexus advertisements. The GS 450h hybrid (no V-8 will be offered) makes 338 horsepower, and it is rated at 29 mpg in the city and 34 on the highway.

Returning to our main course, the GS 350 is best judged from the driver's seat, or anywhere else in the excellent cabin. Lexus should be commended for its latest contribution to the sports sedan ethos. Yet step outside and view the car, and that coherence dissolves. Passion involves focus and risk, both of which the GS needs more of. But it's better than Grape-Nuts.

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I see many brake fluids on the market are now synthetic DOT 3 or DOT 4. How does that differ from the conventional DOT 3 or DOT 4 fluid? How does that differ from silicone brake fluid? And my main question: Does synthetic brake fluid "eat the paint" if spilled on the car?

ANSWER: I think much of the confusion over brake fluids is whether "synthetic" is the same as "silicone"—and it's not. All DOT 3, DOT 4 and DOT 5.1 fluids—the numbers refer to U.S. Department of Transportation specifications—are conventional glycol/ester-based hydraulic fluids, meaning they can and will damage paint if spilled on automotive bodywork. All are synthetic in the sense that they are blends, but the "synthetic"

Synthetic brake fluids differ from silicone

label on some indicates they are more resistant to absorbing moisture, a characteristic of all conventional brake fluids and the reason many carmakers recommend periodic flushing, bleeding and replacement.

Silicone brake fluid—DOT 5—is silicone-based with a high boiling point suitable for motorsports, isn't sensitive to absorbing moisture and doesn't damage paint. But it is not compatible with conventional fluids.

■ ■ ■

Q: I had to replace the blend door motor in the climate control system of my 1997 Lincoln Town Car. Everything worked well, but when warm weather arrived in the spring I started having a problem. When the car sits in the sun and you start it

up, you can hear the familiar clicking sound of the blend door motor trying to seek a position—similar to what I heard when the gears in the motor were bad. If I quickly raise the temperature setting on the control to a high value, the motor will stop doing this. As the car cools down, I can slowly lower this setting, but if it's 80 or higher outside, I can never lower it to below 70 or so. I think it's because the temperature sensor for the climate control is at fault. The air conditioning in the car works great otherwise.

A: Start by using the self-diagnosing capabilities built into the climate control system. With the car's interior stabilized

near room temperature, enter the self-test mode by pressing the "Off" and "Floor" buttons simultaneously, then release and within two seconds push the "Auto" button to read fault codes. Hitting the "Defrost" button cancels the diagnostic mode and deletes any codes. Codes 024/025, along with the clicking noise, indicate a bad blend door actuator. Codes 030/031 indicate an in-car temperature sensor problem, and codes 040/041/042/043 point toward the ambient temperature sensor. Codes 050/052 indicate a sun-load sensor problem.

Keeping in mind the car's age, I can't help but wonder about using an aluminized dashboard sun shield in place while

the car is parked in the sun. I know it would be cheap.

■ ■ ■

Q: I own a 2004 PT Cruiser. Lately there has been a noise coming from the front driver's side wheel. I replaced two tires and had all the tires rotated and balanced. As speed is increased, the "we-we-we" sound increases and can be heard to 30 miles an hour and above. I have had the vehicle to the garage twice and was assured that everything is OK. Yet the sound still persists.

A: If you and the dealer can eliminate the wheels and tires as the origin of the noise, I would focus on the left front disc brake/rotor assembly. As you are cruising along and hearing the "we-we-we" sound, maintain that speed while lightly pushing the brake

pedal with your left foot. If this lessens or eliminates the noise, it's coming from the brakes. Possible causes include rust and debris buildup, a slight warping of the rotor, worn brake pads or the audible brake wear indicator tab rubbing on the rotor.

The sealed front hub and bearing assembly or the drive axle and constant velocity joint are also suspects, but focus on the brakes first.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via email at paul-brand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.

Life & Style

Whitney Houston laid to rest at private NJ burial

WESTFIELD, N.J. (AP)—Whitney Houston was laid to rest Sunday at a brief private ceremony in New Jersey, the end of a weekend that saw the pop star's family and friends gather at a star-studded funeral to mourn her loss while celebrating her career.

Fans and onlookers gathered in several places along the route the motorcade took from the Newark funeral home to the cemetery about 20 miles away in Westfield, where Houston was buried next to her father, who died in 2003.

The 48-year-old singer died Feb. 11 in California, hours before she was to attend a pre-Grammy Awards party. No cause of death has been determined.

On Saturday, she was mourned at an invi-

tation-only funeral at the church in Newark where she sang in the choir as a child. She was remembered by the biggest names in the music: Stevie Wonder and Alicia Keys sang, and industry mogul Clive Davis was among those who spoke, as was Kevin Costner, Houston's co-star in "The Bodyguard."

The funeral was closed to fans, who were not allowed within blocks of the church. Still, many came to Newark to take part in what ways they could, some from as far as Miami



AP
The hearse carrying the body of Whitney Houston arrives at Fairview Cemetery for her burial in Westfield, N.J., Sunday, Feb. 19, 2012.

and Washington, D.C.

Fans gathered again near the funeral home Sunday morning, and some even slowly ran alongside the hearse as it began the journey to Houston's gravesite. Several yelled out "We love you, Whitney" as the hearse, which had a black and white headshot of the star in a window, slowly drove away.

Barbara Davis, 53, of Newark, said she had been waiting outside the funeral home since 8:30 a.m., hoping to get a glimpse of Houston's final trip.

"To be here at her home-going is an honor and a

blessing," Davis told The Star-Ledger of Newark.

Also among the crowd was Newark resident Eva Aquino and her two granddaughters, ages 10 and 13. All three stood on a street corner as the hearse passed by, and they used cellphones to snap photos of the procession.

The girls were wearing T-shirts and buttons of Houston that their grandmother had bought from vendors outside the funeral home Saturday.

"We came here and bought all these things of her to cherish the memories," said 13-year-old Nalani Velez of Kearny.

Aretha remembers Whitney at Radio City in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—Aretha Franklin was thankful to be alive and was thinking about lost friends, among them Whitney Houston.

Hours after she canceled an appearance at Houston's funeral because of spasms in her legs, the "Queen of Soul" (the "undisputed" Queen, the capacity audience was reminded by the show's announcer) was quick on her feet, feisty in voice and sentimental and sassy in spirit at Radio City Music Hall on Saturday night. It was the latest stop on a "greatest hits" tour featuring old favorites and, since Houston's shocking death a week ago, a tribute to the fallen singer. Franklin is close to Houston's family, and she said Houston called her "Aunt Ree."

Franklin herself was rumored a year ago to be mortally ill, hospitalized with an

undisclosed illness and asking her fans worldwide to pray for her health. On Saturday, the 69-year-old looked young enough to joke about a man who had mistaken her for being in her 50s. She danced and shimmied, kicked off her heels and paced the stage barefoot, and even smirked and gave herself a couple of satisfied pats on the rear.

She looked back over a 50-year career and those who helped her along. Franklin praised the late Luther Vandross as she kicked off the R&B hit he co-wrote for her, "Get It Right." She introduced her most heartbreak ballad, "Ain't No Way," with a brief word about her sister and the song's composer, Carolyn Franklin, who died in 1988. She sang the title from the classic Motown anthem of devotion, "You're All I Need To Get

By," and two giant flat screens on opposite sides of the stage flashed a picture of one of the writers, Nick Ashford, who died last summer. Franklin then called out to Ashford's widow and songwriting partner, Valerie Simpson, among several friends and family members in attendance.

Houston's turn came during the second half of the roughly 100-minute concert, after Franklin had changed from a glittery green and silver caftan into a caftan of white and gold, and settled behind the piano and sketched out the words and melody to "I Will Always Love You." Softening Houston's all-time power ballad into a light, gospel reverie, Franklin paused to acknowledge the "homegoing" of "Nippy," Houston's nickname: More formally, "Miss Whitney Elizabeth Houston."

J.Lo, Fergie add star power to Rio Carnival parade

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—As millions watched the sequin-clad samba dancers at Rio de Janeiro's iconic Carnival parade Sunday, at least a few eyes turned toward the stars, or at least toward the VIP boxes hosting celebrities such as Jennifer Lopez and Fergie.

The Carnival parade has been attracting top celebrities for much of its 80 years. Many are brought in by attention-hungry Brazilian advertisers hoping to share some of the glow of the world's biggest party.

This year, beer company Brahma was promoting Lopez, while hair care company Head and Shoulders hosted Fergie. Neither planned to actually parade in the all-night-long event, but J.Lo waved to the crowd from the posh VIP seats at the Sambadrome as 13 samba schools

joined in a fierce, sweaty competition before tens of thousands inside and many more watching at home on television.

The numbers of top-tier celebrities in attendance has grown as Brazil's star has risen—particularly since the South American giant was chosen to host the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 summer Olympics.

Recent guests at the two-day-long parade have included Madonna, Beyoncé, Jude Law, Paris Hilton, Pamela Anderson and Kevin Spacey.

Spectators at the Sambadrome were split over the presence of celebrities at Carnival.

"I honestly couldn't care less if there are famous people or not," said Monica Linsay, a 23-year-old university student at the Sambadrome for the first time. "I

don't care about marketing ploys. I'm here to watch the parade."

And there is much to watch: Samba soloists who shake into overdrive as soon as the cameras turn on them; dancers dressed as Teletubbies on drugs; ambulatory American flags; psychedelic flamingos, complete with stilt legs; vertically challenged jokers brandishing jumbo soccer balls; belly dancers. And that was just one single samba school.

Spectator Ligia Santos said she was happy about the celebrity presence.

"It doesn't matter that these foreign celebrities don't know how to samba or even how the parade works," the retiree said. "It's excellent they're here because it means we're sharing the beauty we have here out to the world."

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

George Joseph "Keoki" Affatica Sablan (Pitu)

Born on October 23, 1970 and was called to eternal rest
on February 10, 2012 in Honolulu Hawaii

In his new life, he now joins his:

Grandparents: Alejandro and Fidelia Sablan (Pitu)
Philip and Beatrice Affatica

Aunts and Uncles: Concepcion, Juan, Leonordes, Santiago
and Francisco Camacho Sablan

His loving memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Consalacion Muna Sablan
Daughters: Keavonnie Muna Sablan and Heaven Muna Hocog
Parents: Jose Camacho Sablan (Pitu) and Janice Affatica Sablan
Brother: Alexander Affatica Sablan (Nora)
Sister: Amanda Mae, Kanani Lynn and Sean Alexander Leilani Sablan Matsumoto (Nori)
Koujiro Jonah

He will also be missed by his numerous Aunts, Uncles, Nieces, Nephews and Cousins.

Nightly rosary is offered at 7:00 p.m., Mount Carmel Cathedral.

On Friday, February 24, 2012 at 7:30am, his remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Viewing and last respects will be held from 9:00am to 10:30am.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am, followed by the interment service at the Veterans Cemetery.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

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Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday & Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Monday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Tuesday thru Thursday	4:05	7:05	

Nicolas Cage, Ciarán Hinds, Violante Placido
Action • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Nicolas Cage returns as the spirit of vengeance with this sequel to 2007's Ghost Rider from the Crank team of Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor.



This Means War

Friday	4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday & Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Monday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Tuesday thru Thursday	4:25	7:25	

Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

Two top CIA spies (Star Trek's Chris Pine and Inception's Tom Hardy) find their enduring friendship put to the ultimate test when they engage in an all-out war to win the affections of a beautiful woman (Reese Witherspoon). Chelsea Handler and Til Schweiger co-star in a comedy co-written by Simon Kinberg (Sherlock Holmes) and Timothy Dowling (Role Models) and directed by McG (Charlie's Angels, Terminator Salvation).



Journey 2: Mysterious Island

Friday	4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday & Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Monday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Tuesday thru Thursday	4:15	7:15	

The Rock, Vanessa Hudgens, Michael Caine
Adventure • Rated PG



Safe House

Friday	4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday & Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Monday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Tuesday thru Thursday	4:20	7:20	

Denzel Washington, Ryan Reynolds
Spy film, Thriller • Rated R



The Descendants

Friday	4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday & Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Monday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Tuesday thru Thursday	4:30	7:30	

George Clooney, Shailene Woodley
Comedy, Drama • Rated R



The Woman In Black

Friday	7:00		
Saturday & Sunday	1:00	7:00	
Monday	1:00	7:00	
Tuesday thru Thursday	7:00		

Daniel Radcliffe, Ciarán Hinds
Thriller, Mystery • Rated PG 13



Chronicle

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday & Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Monday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Tuesday thru Thursday	4:10	7:10	

Dane DeHaan, Alex Russel
Thriller • Rated PG 13



The Grey

Friday	4:00	10:00	
Saturday & Sunday	4:00	10:00	
Monday	4:00		
Tuesday thru Thursday	4:00		

Liam Neeson, Frank Grillo
Adventure • Rated R



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'Safe House,' 'The Vow' beat out new 'Ghost Rider'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The President's Day weekend box office was too close to call as the action tale "Safe House" and the love story "The Vow" competed for the No. 1 spot.

Based on Sunday's studio estimates, Denzel Washington and Ryan Reynolds' "Safe House" had a slim lead with \$24 million from Friday to Sunday. That put it a fraction ahead of Rachel McAdams and Channing Tatum's "The Vow" with \$23.6 million.

1. "Safe House," \$24 million (\$6 million international).
2. "The Vow," \$23.6 million (\$6.8 million international).
3. "Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance," \$22 million.
4. "Journey 2: The Mysterious Island," \$20.1 million (\$26 million international).
5. "This Means War," \$17.6 million (\$11 million international).
6. "Star Wars: Episode I—The Phantom Menace" in 3-D, \$7.9 million (\$10 million international).
7. "Chronicle," \$7.5 million.
8. "The Woman in Black," \$6.6 million (\$8.4 million international).
9. "The Secret World of Arrietty," \$6.4 million.
10. "The Grey," \$3 million.

clude estimates for the size of Sunday's audiences.

No matter which one finishes on top, the movie business remains unusually brisk

for winter, typically a slow season at theaters. The business uptick comes after Hollywood lumbered through a humdrum holiday season at

or tolerate statements of this kind."

The DJs on Wednesday had called Houston a "crack ho" and referred to her as "cracked out for 20 years"—she'd publicly denied smoking crack—with Kobylt saying, "Then you find out she's dead and it's like, really, it took this long?" Additional slams can be heard in audio from the show, posted by Urban Informer.

"We made a mistake, and we accept the station's decision," Kobylt said in the statement. "We used language that was inappropriate, and we sincerely apologize to our listeners and to the family of Ms. Houston."

Kobylt and Chiampou were expected to be back on the air Monday. (*Christie D'Zurilla*)



Ricky Martin arrives for the 53rd Annual Grammy Awards show at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California on February 13, 2011. (MCT)

Ricky Martin opens up about marriage equality, kids

After shaking his bon bon on "Glee," Ricky Martin is dancing around matters a touch more serious—like his thoughts on gay marriage and whether he'll take that next step in his own relationship.

"It's about civil rights. I'm not telling you what to believe. I wish people understood that love manifests in different ways," Martin told *Details* about the equality question facing the country.

"Allow me to have my life and I won't mess with yours," he added.

That life includes twin boys and a four-year relationship with boyfriend Carlos González Abella, and Martin is in no rush to tie the knot—legal or not.

"Everybody is asking me when I'm going to get married. People that I don't know are pushing it. But it's not something that we're talking about," he said.

Forgive him if he's otherwise occupied. In addition to his kids he's bringing "Evita" back to Broadway. How does he maintain his stamina?

"I go to the gym. I do yoga. I'm a father to two toddlers, and lifting them is a workout—this is biceps, this is triceps. I also try to make love. That helps," said Martin. (*Matt Donnelly*)

From the Los Angeles Times' Ministry of Gossip blog.

Actress Judi Dench says she's battling blindness



A Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012 photo from files showing British actress, Judi Dench, arriving for 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel' world premiere at a central London venue.

LONDON (AP)—Actress Judi Dench is battling to save her sight.

The James Bond star said in an interview published Saturday that she had been diagnosed with macular degeneration, an eye condition which can cause blindness, and that her eyesight was already so bad that she couldn't even read her own scripts.

The 77-year-old told the Daily Mirror that she was relying on friends and family to keep her up to speed with her lines.

"It's usually my daughter or my agent or a friend and actually I like that, because I sit there and imagine the story in my mind," she told the newspaper during an interview

at a London hotel. "The most distressing thing is in a restaurant in the evening I can't see the person I'm having dinner with."

The Mirror didn't say exactly where or when the interview took place. Messages left for Dench's agent were not immediately returned Saturday.

Dench made her Shakespearean debut in 1957 at London's Old Vic and has since taken on a vast number of theater, film and television roles.

She won an Academy Award for her role as Queen Elizabeth I in "Shakespeare in Love" and is best known to international audiences as intelligence boss M in the James Bond series.

'Colbert Report' to return Monday after absence

NEW YORK (AP)—A representative for Stephen Colbert says "The Colbert Report" will return Monday after a sudden break due to the ailing health of the star's mother.

The Comedy Central show last week substituted repeats for scheduled shows on Wednesday and Thursday. At the time, the network said only that the cancellations were



Colbert

because of "unforeseen circumstances."

Colbert is expected to address his absence on Monday. His 91-year-old mother, Lorna Colbert, is ill.

Earlier on Twitter, Colbert thanked those who had offered "thoughts and prayers."

Colbert's father, James Colbert, and two of his brothers were killed in an airplane crash in 1974.

Lindsay Lohan to guest host 'SNL' next month

NEW YORK (AP)—Lindsay Lohan's comeback trail is leading her to "Saturday Night Live."

NBC says the troubled actress, whose career in recent years has been upstaged by legal and personal problems, will serve as guest host of "SNL" on March 3. The network said Sunday that the musical guest that night will be Jack White.

It will be Lohan's fourth turn as host of the late-night comedy show. She presided in 2004, 2005 and 2006, before her career faltered. In recent years, she has mostly been in the public eye in connection with her multiple arrests and episodes of substance abuse. In December, she appeared in Playboy magazine in a mostly nude pictorial.

In this Feb. 8, 2012 file photo, actress Lindsay Lohan attends amfAR's New York gala benefit at Cipriani Wall Street in New York.

AP

'Midnight in Paris,' 'Descendants' win WGA honors

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Woody Allen's romantic fantasy "Midnight in Paris" and Alexander Payne's family drama "The Descendants" have won top screenplay honors from the Writers Guild of America.

With his biggest hit in decades, writer-director Allen earned the guild's prize Sunday for original screenplay on "Midnight in Paris." The film stars Owen Wilson as a modern Hollywood writer

who gets a chance to hang with his literary idols in the 1920s Paris of Hemingway and Fitzgerald.

Director Payne shared the adapted screenplay honor with co-writers Nat Faxon and Jim Rash.

Based on the novel by Kaui Hart Hemmings, "The Descendants" stars George Clooney as a Hawaiian dad struggling to tend to his two daughters after a boating accident puts his wife in a coma.

academy members. The newspaper's findings were reported Sunday, a week before the Oscars. The Times reported that through interviews with members and their representatives, it confirmed the identities of about 5,100 voters—89 percent of academy membership. The findings are in line with industry employment overall, in which whites and males dominate. But academy President Tom Sherak says the group is trying to diversify its membership rolls.

PBS trivia graphic feeds 'Downton Abbey' addiction

LOS ANGELES (AP)—PBS is

feeding the addiction of "Downton Abbey" fans with an online trivia graphic. Among the tidbits: Jim Carter, who plays dignified butler Carson, takes part in charity bike rides worldwide, and Elizabeth McGovern, who is the show's Lady Cora, is in a band called Sadie & the Hotheads. The PBS graphic doesn't address the fate of star-crossed lovers Lady Mary and Matthew (Michelle Dockery, Dan Stevens). "Downton Abbey" is about an English estate's family and servants in the early 20th century. It has proved a hit for PBS. The second-season finale airs 9 p.m. EST Sunday on public TV stations.

Air Force may be perfect job for teen on the move

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I respectfully disagree with the advice you gave to "Wants to Enlist" (Dec. 29). She is the 19-year-old woman who burns out of jobs quickly and is thinking about enlisting in the Air Force. You discouraged her.



Dear Abby

I served honorably in the U.S. Air Force, Air Force Reserves and the Air National Guard for 14 years. Experience taught me that if I didn't like my current assignment, it was easier to tolerate it for the time being knowing it wasn't a permanent assignment. Eventually, I received orders to go elsewhere.

My military training was the best foundation for me. It taught me discipline, instilled confidence that I could handle any situation, and provided me with skills that enabled me to work with people under various circumstances.

"Wants to Enlist" needs to be honest with the companies/organizations she applies to. During the interview, she should be upfront in saying she is willing to commit to a set period of time and/or to accept a part-time position, lower pay and a flexible schedule. The employers who hired me under these terms have written me letters of recommendation, proving they benefitted from our arrangement.

FORMER FLY GIRL IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR FORMER FLY GIRL: Thank you for offering a solution that worked for you. Responses I received to that letter provided interesting insights that "Wants to Enlist" may wish to consider. My readers comment:

DEAR ABBY: I, too, wasted years of my life job-hopping. It seemed I couldn't stay in a position longer than six months. It wasn't until late in life that I was diagnosed with bipolar disorder. With therapy and medication, my life finally took on some semblance of "normal." For the first time, I finally had purpose and direction. My final job lasted 17 years. I don't mean to suggest "Wants to Enlist" suffers from the same disorder, but it deserves some consideration.

B.P.D. IN TENNESSEE

DEAR ABBY: Once a job became routine, I lost interest. Eventually I found my way to higher education and a position where there are always new challenges. I now have a long-term and successful career. Perhaps this 19-year-old should consider attending college even part-time—to satisfy her intellect while preparing for a more varied and challenging future.

BEEN THERE IN LAS CRUCES, N.M.

DEAR ABBY: "Wants to Enlist" may want to be tested for ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder). For many years, I was misdiagnosed with a variety of mental health issues. Then my husband read an article about adult ADD. After checking with my doctor, I was put on medication to see if it would help. I cannot tell you the difference it has made in my life. I'm calmer, happier and have more confidence than ever. I hope this young lady will look into what might be causing her behavior because she will see how wonderful she is.

HAPPIER NOW IN FLORIDA

DEAR ABBY: I also had difficulty settling down in one place. My solution was to become a traveling health care worker. I work for a contracting agency that sends me on three-month assignments all over the country. If I don't like a facility, I know my time there will end soon. There are local contracting agencies in larger cities if you don't want to pack up and move. This job has been the answer to my dreams!

TRACY IN KINGWOOD, TEXAS

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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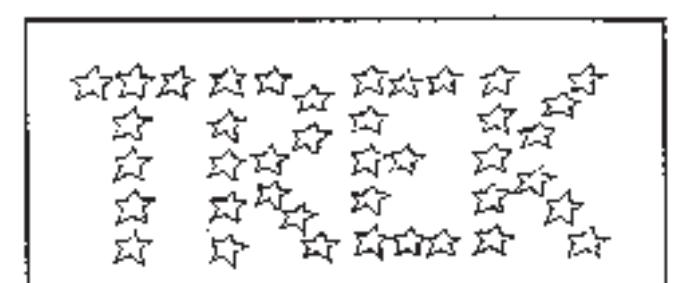
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Durant scores 51 as Thunder top Nuggets



OKLAHOMACITY

(AP)—Kevin Durant scored a career-best 51 points for the top performance in the NBA this season, Russell Westbrook added 40 and Serge Ibaka had his first career triple-double as the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Denver Nuggets 124-118 in overtime Sunday.

Durant hit a 3-pointer and drove for a dunk to tie the game with 4.4 seconds left in regulation, then used the extra period to chalk up the first 50-point game of the two-time scoring champion's career.

Ibaka added 14 points, 15 rebounds and 11 blocks to become the 14th player in franchise history with a triple-double.

Arron Afflalo scored 27 points and Andre Miller had 21 points and 10 assists for Denver, which squandered a chance to win at the end of regulation.

Knicks 104, Mavericks 97

In New York, Jeremy Lin had 28 points and a career-high 14 assists, and Steve Novak made four 3-pointers in the fourth quarter as New York ended Dallas' six-game winning streak.

J.R. Smith scored 15 points in his Knicks debut and Novak had all of his 14 in the final period as New York won for the eighth time in nine games.

In a game of wild momentum swings, the Knicks reeled off 17 straight points in the first quarter, fell behind by 12 in the third, then pulled it out to beat the Mavericks for only the third time in the last 20 meetings.

Dirk Nowitzki scored a season-high 34 points for the Mavericks, who had been playing championship-level defense but became the latest team who couldn't stop Lin.

Heat 90, Magic 78

At Miami, Dwyane Wade scored 27 points, and LeBron James had 25 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists, as NBA-leading Miami beat Orlando for their sixth consecutive victory.

With former President Bill Clinton sitting courtside next to Heat managing general partner Micky Arison, Udonis Haslem scored 10 for the Heat, who improved to 25-7, a half-game better than Chicago for the best record in the NBA and Eastern Conference. The 12-point final margin was Miami's smallest during its current winning streak.

Wade made 13 of 23 shots from the floor, shooting 50 percent or better for the 10th straight game.

Timberwolves 92, 76ers 91

In Minneapolis, Kevin Love scored 12 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter, including a pair of free throws with 0.1 seconds left, to lead Minnesota over Philadelphia.

Ricky Rubio had a career-high 22 points to go with six rebounds and five assists. His backup, J.J. Barea, added 14 points to help

offset another strong game by Jrue Holiday of the Sixers. Holiday had 20 points on 10-for-20 shooting, plus five rebounds and three steals.

Suns 102, Lakers 90

In Phoenix, Jared Dudley scored a season-high 25 points, and Marcin Gortat had 21 points and 15 rebounds as Phoenix held on to beat Los Angeles, ending a four-game losing streak.

Kobe Bryant scored 32 points but was 1 of 8 on 3-pointers and committed 10 turnovers, one short of his career worst.

Grant Hill scored 15 points and Steve Nash had 14 assists for the Suns.

Pau Gasol added 17 points and 12 rebounds and Andrew Bynum had 16 points and 10 boards for the Lakers.

Pistons 96, Celtics 81

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Greg Monroe had 17 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists, and Rodney Stuckey added 16 points to lead surging Detroit over Boston.

Detroit has won seven of its last nine games, including two victories in five days over the Celtics, who were missing Kevin Garnett (personal reasons) and Brandon Bass (left knee).

Paul Pierce led Boston with 18 points.

Pacers 108, Bobcats 73

In Indianapolis, Roy Hibbert had 18 points and 14 rebounds to lead Indiana over Charlotte.

Danny Granger and David West each scored 14 points for the Pacers, who have won two in a row following a season-long five-game losing streak. West also grabbed eight rebounds.

Derrick Brown had 16 points and Kemba Walker 15 for the Bobcats (4-27), who have lost 17 of their last 18 games and never led in this one.

Cavaliers 93, Kings 92

In Cleveland, Kyrie Irving's two free throws with 0.4 seconds remaining gave Cleveland a win over Sacramento, extending the Kings' losing streak to five games.

Irving scored 23 points and Antawn Jamison added 21 for the Cavaliers.

Isaiah Thomas, making his second start, scored a career-high 23 points and had 11 assists for the Kings.

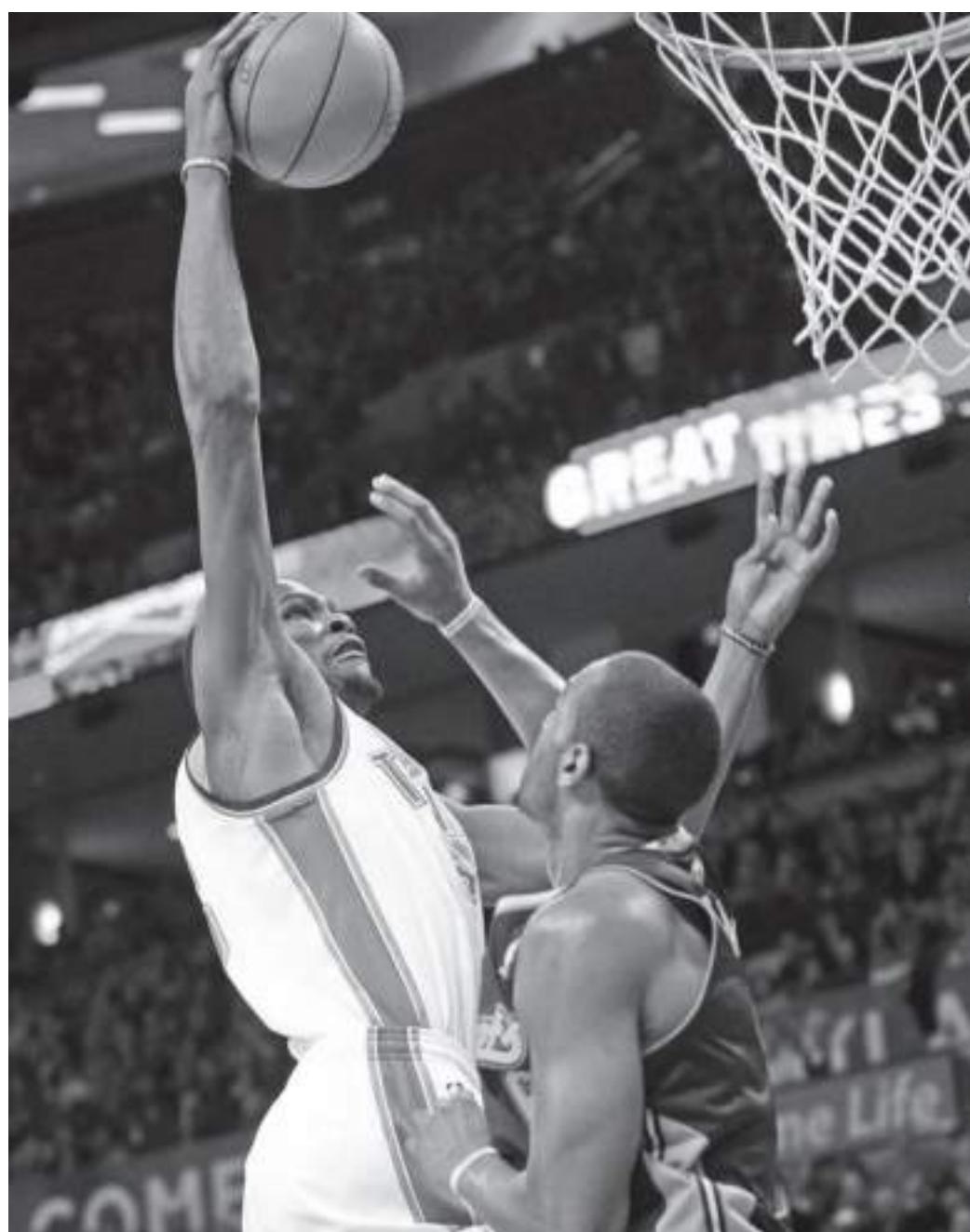
Rockets 101, Jazz 85

In Houston, Kyle Lowry scored 32 points and Luis Scola had 26 as Houston fought off a late run by Utah.

The Jazz cut Houston's double-digit lead to two with a big fourth-quarter spurt before an 8-2 run by the Rockets stretched their lead to 88-80 with four minutes left.

Al Jefferson, coming off a season-high 34 points Friday, led the Jazz with 23 points and 11 rebounds.

Lowry's 32 points were one shy of his season high. He made seven of eight 3-pointers, was 7 of 7 on free throws and had nine



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant, left, shoots over Denver Nuggets guard Arron Affalo, right, in the third quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Sunday, Feb. 19, 2012. AP

assists as the Rockets improved to 2-1 on a six-game homestand.

Bucks 92, Nets 85

In Newark, New Jersey, Ersan Ilyasova had career highs of 29 points and 25 rebounds as Milwaukee snapped a four-game losing streak while spoiling the

season debut of New Jersey center Brook Lopez.

Ilyasova's 25 rebounds tied the NBA single-game high this season set Jan. 18 by Orlando's Dwight Howard in an overtime game against San Antonio. The 6-foot-10 forward from Turkey fouled out with 2:01 to play after

being the difference-maker all night, including a key 3-pointer with 4:56 to play after the Nets cut a 16-point deficit to seven.

Brandon Jennings added 17 points as the Bucks won for only the third time in 10 games.

Deron Williams had 26 points to lead New Jersey.

Former President Clinton takes in Magic vs. Heat

MIAMI (AP)—Former President Bill Clinton did something Sunday that many celebrities do when visiting South Florida.

He watched the Miami Heat.

With the best seat in the house—of course—Clinton arrived shortly before tip-off of the Heat's game against the Orlando Magic, even getting his hands on a deflected ball late in the first half and smiling as he flipped it back onto the court.

Clinton stayed until the very end, then posed for plenty of postgame photos with fans, as well as one with the officiating crew of Bill Kennedy, Mark Lindsay and Rodney Mott.

"As a crew, it was an honor and a privilege," Kennedy said after the game.

Clinton told the crew: "No one in this building, other than me, has been second-guessed more than you guys."

The Heat won the game 90-78.

Clinton sat just to the right of Heat managing general partner Micky Arison, the two chat-

ting just about nonstop during play while sitting near midcourt at a table only inches from the sideline. The former president's visit was not announced beforehand, and when asked about it postgame, Heat coach Erik Spoelstra still apparently wasn't aware that Clinton was sitting next to one of his bosses.

"I didn't know," Spoelstra said. "Is he still here? Do I have a chance to go shake his hand?"

Players, however, were keenly aware of who was playing the role of First Fan on Sunday. "I did notice that," said Heat guard Dwyane Wade, who exchanged greetings with Clinton. "I wasn't like Spo."

Added Heat forward LeBron James: "It's humbling, honestly. ... The best thing about it is we were able to win a game while he was here."

Clinton took his seat shortly before the Heat starting lineup was introduced to the crowd, and at times seemed just like any other fan. He received a

lengthy cheer in the third quarter, standing as a spotlight shone upon him and after he received a Heat jersey with "Clinton 42" emblazoned on the back.

He was laughing during a timeout when the Heat's "Golden Oldies"—a dance troupe composed of older citizens—performed, applauded when James threw an alley-oop pass to Wade, turned to look skyward at the overhead video screen for replays and pored over stat sheets during timeouts.

Clinton has long enjoyed many sports. He played golf in Colombia last week at a Nationwide Tour event.

Heat executives Nick Arison and Alonzo Mourning met briefly with Clinton in Haiti last month, discussing ongoing earthquake relief efforts. Clinton and Mourning chatted that day for a few minutes about a number of other topics, including the Heat's season to that point and how much the former president enjoyed the retired Heat center's book.

Bryant, as usual, was the last player to speak to reporters Sunday night. Gasol had already left after talking about the game but mentioning nothing about a potential trade.

Kobe criticizes Lakers about potential Pau Gasol trade

PHOENIX (AP)—Kobe Bryant lashed out at Los Angeles Lakers management Sunday night for leaving teammate Pau Gasol wondering whether he's about to be traded.

In a postgame monologue punctuated by a couple of profanities, Bryant said the Lakers either need to trade Gasol or come out and say it won't happen.

Bryant's comments came in the aftermath of a 102-90 loss at Phoenix on Sunday night. He said he doesn't want Gasol to be traded but it's unfair for his teammate to try to play when he doesn't know if he'll be somewhere else the following day.

As Bryant put it: "If they're going to do something, I wish they would just ... do it."

"Listen, he's been the consummate professional," Bryant said. "He's going out and he's trying to do what he can. But let's be real. If you didn't know you were going to be here tomorrow, if your head's on the chopping block and you feel like you're just waiting, it's tough to put all yourself in the game."

Trade rumors about Gasol have circulated since the team thought it had shipped him to New Orleans in a three-team deal before the season that would have brought Chris Paul to the Lakers. But NBA Commissioner David Stern blocked the trade.

"It's hard for Pau because of all this trade talk and stuff," Bryant said, bringing up the subject even though no one asked him about it. "It's hard for him to kind of invest himself completely or immerse himself completely into games when he's hearing trade talk every other day. I wish management would either come out and either trade him or not trade him."

Bryant said the Lakers have the foundation for another run at the NBA title with Gasol, who had 17 points and 12 rebounds in the loss to Phoenix.

"It obviously starts with myself and Pau and the emergency of Andrew (Bynum)," Bryant said, "but you can't have one of our pillars not knowing if he's going to be here or not. Do something. One way or another, do something. If they trade him at least you have some type of closure, he gets some type of closure."

Bryant, as usual, was the last player to speak to reporters Sunday night. Gasol had already left after talking about the game but mentioning nothing about a potential trade.

Haas wins at Riviera in stunning conclusion

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bill Haas wound up making the biggest putt of them all at Riviera.

On the second extra hole of a three-way playoff Sunday—made possible by clutch birdie putts from Phil Mickelson and Keegan Bradley on the final hole—Haas rolled in a 45-foot birdie putt across the 10th green to win the Northern Trust Open.

Haas closed with a 2-under 69 and won a PGA Tour event for the third straight year.

He was on the practice range at 7-under 277, warming up for a Northern Trust Open playoff that didn't look likely. Mickelson and Bradley, the co-leaders going into the final round, were one shot behind on the 18th hole, which had given up only six birdies all day.

With tournament executive director Jerry West—"Mr. Clutch" from his days with the Los Angeles Lakers—looking on, Mickelson rammed in a birdie putt from just outside 25 feet, pointing his putter and slamming his fist as the gallery packed into the hill below the stately clubhouse let out a cheer that could be heard down Sunset Boulevard.

Mickelson bumped fists with Bradley and told his protege, "Join me."

That he did. Bradley's birdie putt from just outside 12 feet took one last, slow turn at the cup and disappeared, setting off another enormous cheer. No one had to tell Haas what was happening.

They started the playoff on the 18th, and Bradley had the best look at birdie with a 15-footer from just off the back of the green that touched the right side of the cup.

It was decided on the 312-yard 10th hole, regarded as the best short par 4 in America, cer-

tainly among the most interesting holes in all of golf. It can be reached with a drive, but it's all about position—and none were in a particularly good spot.

Haas went long into thick rough, with enough of the back bunker in his way that he smartly played out to the right and left himself a long birdie putt that at least would assure him par.

Mickelson and Bradley each came up short, a horrible angle. Mickelson's flop shot landed near the hole and rolled into the back bunker. Bradley was in the bunker, and did well to blast out to 15 feet, just through the green.

Haas ended the suspense with his putt.

Bradley, who closed with a 71, missed his birdie putt after Mickelson, who also had a 71, failed to hole his bunker shot.

"I didn't think he was going to make that one," Bradley said. "I should have known, though, because he's a great putter and a great player."

Haas, the FedEx Cup champion, captured his fourth career PGA Tour title and moved to No. 12 in the world.

Mickelson, who rallied from six shots behind with a 64 to win last week at Pebble Beach, was trying to become the first player since Tiger Woods in August 2009 to win back-to-back on the PGA Tour.

Mickelson missed three straight putts from just inside 10 feet on the back nine—two for par, one for birdie—but atoned for it with his birdie on the 18th, the longest putt he made all day.

Bradley also missed a pair of putts from inside 10 feet down the stretch until coming up big on the 18th.

Mickelson seized control early with the best shot he hit all week. With pin tucked in the back right



Bill Haas holds the winner's trophy after his victory in the Northern Trust Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles, Sunday, Feb. 19, 2012. AP

corner on a new green at the fifth hole—a deep swale behind it and to the right—Mickelson hooked a 9-iron that started out toward the gallery and wound up 4 feet away for birdie.

That put him at 9 under, two shots clear of Haas, who had birdied the par-3 sixth two groups

ahead. Jonathan Byrd, who had been tied for the lead, made double bogey on No. 5 with a hooked tee shot into the hay.

All it took was a pair of mistakes by Mickelson to turn the back nine into a shootout, with a half-dozen players in the mix.

He missed the dual fairway

on the eighth and couldn't reach the green, chipped 6 feet by the hole and missed the par putt. Then, he failed to clear the fairway bunker on No. 9 and had no chance of getting home. His wedge was 20 feet short, leading to another bogey.

The game was on.

Yankees trade Burnett to Pirates



NEW YORK

(AP)—A.J.

Burnett's rocky tenure in pinstripes is over.

The Yankees and Pirates completed a trade Sunday that sends the much-maligned pitcher to Pittsburgh for a pair of minor leaguers. New York is also giving the Pirates nearly \$20 million to cover most of Burnett's hefty salary in a deal that clears the way for the Yankees to sign Raul Ibanez.

The teams agreed to the trade Friday but it was subject to Burnett passing a physical, which he did Sunday at Pirates camp as pitchers and catchers held their first workout of spring training in Bradenton, Fla.

Commissioner Bud Selig also had to approve the deal because of the money involved.

Burnett goes from a perennial World Series favorite to a club coming off its 19th consecutive losing season, a record for the

four major pro sports in North America.

"Having played in New York, I can say that playing in Pittsburgh is ... I wouldn't say easier, but just the pressure and everything that comes along with it is less," said Pirates right-hander Jeff Karstens, who also pitched for the Yankees. "That should make his transition here a little bit easier. Anytime you can add a quality arm like that to the staff, it's going to make us better."

The Yankees get 25-year-old right-hander Diego Moreno and 20-year-old outfielder Exiardo Cayones, both low-level prospects.

Pittsburgh will pay \$13 million of the \$33 million salary due Burnett for 2012 and 2013, a person familiar with the negotiations said Friday, speaking on condition of anonymity. The contract for the 39-year-old outfielder would have a base salary of about \$1 million.

Both teams announced the deal Sunday night, though neither disclosed the amount of cash involved.

"A.J. Burnett is a solid, veteran starting pitcher with an above-average pitch repertoire and potential to provide us with significant quality innings from our starting rotation," Pirates general manager Neal Huntington said.

New York plans to use the money saved to sign a designated hitter following Jorge Posada's retirement. The Yankees already have been negotiating a major league deal with Ibanez, who spent the past three seasons in Philadelphia.

A left-handed hitter, Ibanez has been waiting for New York to agree to the deal, a person familiar with those negotiations said, also on condition of anonymity. The contract for the 39-year-old outfielder would have a base salary of about \$1 million.

Ibanez batted .245 with 20 homers and 84 RBIs last season. His on-base percentage was only .289 but he had 31 doubles.

New York also hopes to re-sign backup infielder Eric Chavez.

The 35-year-old Burnett was 34-35 with a 4.79 ERA during three seasons with the Yankees, including 11-11 with a 5.15 ERA last year. After signing an \$82.5 million, five-year deal as a free agent, his best moment came in his first year with New York when he beat the Phillies in Game 2 of the 2009 World Series.

Other than that, Burnett became known for walks, wild pitches and pelting teammates in the face with cream pies following game-winning hits. The right-hander's average of 3.98 walks per nine innings ranked fifth in the majors from 2009-11 among pitchers with 400 or more innings, according to STATS LLC.

Burnett became expendable when the Yankees acquired Michael Pineda from Seattle in a trade and agreed to a one-year

deal with free-agent pitcher Hiroki Kuroda. They joined holdovers CC Sabathia, Ivan Nova, Phil Hughes and Freddy Garcia in a crowded rotation.

In Pittsburgh, Burnett joins a rotation that includes newly signed Erik Bedard and returnees James McDonald, Kevin Correia and Karstens. Charlie Morton is recovering from hip surgery in October. When Morton is available, Karstens could return to the bullpen and spot starts.

"I think he's looking forward to the opportunity to re-establish himself and mentor some of the young pitchers," said Burnett's agent, Derek Braunecker.

Burnett already has received \$2,062,500 of his salary for this year because the Yankees pay him in twice-monthly installments over the entire year rather than from April to September, which is the major league standard. Of the remaining \$14,437,500, Pittsburgh will pay \$5 million and the Yankees \$9,437,500. Next year the Pirates will pay \$8 million and

Haas started the back nine with a birdie to take the lead, only to give it back with consecutive bogeys when he came up short on the 12th and missed the fairway left on the 13th. Bradley and Mickelson each made birdie on the 11th to reclaim a share of the lead, then took turns falling out of the lead—Bradley missed the green to the left on No. 13 for bogey, Mickelson with a three-putt from 50 feet on No. 14.

Mickelson three-putted again from 70 feet on the 15th, but Bradley also missed a 7-foot par putt on the same hole.

Four players had at least a share of the lead throughout the final round. Dustin Johnson was not among them, though he stayed in the hunt until the end. Needing a birdie to match Haas, he leaked his approach to the 18th and then bladed his chip across the green. He had to scramble for bogey and a 71, putting him in a tie for fourth.

Garcia never had a chance to win, though the Spaniard sure made it interesting.

He hit 3-wood to 10 feet for eagle on No. 11, holed a 4-iron from 207 for eagle on No. 15 and birdied the 18th for a 30 on his opening nine. When he holed a birdie putt across the third green, he was 8 under for the day through 11 holes, and only three shots behind.

His momentum ended with a bogey on the par-3 fourth, and he had to settle for a 64, the best round of the tournament.

Winning never entered his mind.

"Everything had to be absolutely perfect for me," Garcia said. "I obviously couldn't make any bogeys. It's not that easy."

Luke Donald, the No. 1 player in the world, struggled after the opening round and closed with a 78.

the Yankees \$8.5 million.

"When I first heard we were thinking about getting A.J., I was excited. I was hoping we'd get it done," said new Pirates catcher Rod Barajas, who played with Burnett on the 2008 Toronto Blue Jays.

"With the relationship we've had, the fact that we worked together and did well together, it made me feel we can get back to where it was that year. Even after he left Toronto for New York, we constantly had conversations. He's a joy to be around. He brings good energy. I think he's going to fit in well here."

Moreno was 2-4 with a 3.21 ERA and 31 strikeouts in 33 2-3 innings last year during 34 relief appearances for Bradenton of the Florida State League and 0-0 with a 4.91 ERA in seven games with Double-A Altoona.

Cayones was 2 for 32 (.063) for State College of the New York-Penn League and 24 for 98 (.293) with no homers and 12 RBIs for the Gulf Coast Pirates last year.

Kitami wins CWGA February ace

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Pil Sun Kitami was declared the CNMI Women's Golf Association's February Ace of the Month winner after the conclusion of the group's monthly event held last Feb. 11 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Kitami started off red hot and came

into the turn in the lead with a 39 gross tally, the lowest score of the day on the front nine.

Kitami then held it steady on the back side with a 45 to finish with an respectable 84 gross total, and her 16 handicap left her with a 68 net count for this month's top honors.

She is now qualified to compete in the CWA's finale Ace of Aces tournament.

Kitami finished ahead of runner-

up Mio Kim and third placer Terry Guerrero.

Kim scratched a 43 on the front nine and finished strong on the back with a 40 to edge out Kitami's raw score by a stroke, however, Kim came up a couple strokes short after the handicap adjustment.

Guerrero hit the turn with a sturdy 42, but struggled after the turn. She pulled into the clubhouse after posting a 48 on the back for a gross count

of 90 that worked into a 71 net total.

Notably, last month's ace, Noriko Togawa, tied Kim's field-low gross tally 83; she started with a 40 and finished with a 43, but settled for just a ninth place showing with a 79 net score.

A total of 17 golfers made up the field.

The CWGA utilizes a standard net score format, where a predetermined point system is tallied during the season.

First place is awarded 15 points, 14 for second and so on down through the top ten place finishers, and the rest re-

ceive a point for participation.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI. The group plays once a month leading up to its finale two-day event.

The date and venue of next month's event is still being determined.

For more information, contact Noriko Togawa at 287-0027, Lou Kim at 483-5255, Terry Tudela at 483-1761, Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621 or Bennett Seman at 483-0126.

ENFORCERS

From Page 28

to start the game and the visiting Comets broke the ice in the top of the second inning for a 1-0 lead over the Twins.

Ethan Babauta led off with a double and later made it home off an error, however it was locked at 1-1 after three frames after the Comets allowed a lead of walk to the plate off errors in the third inning.

The Comets regrouped quickly, however, and sparked a six-run uprising in the fourth inning.

The first three batters reached on a hit, an error, and a walk and made it all the way around off some extra throws in the infield.

Then the Twins found trouble finding the strike zone and issued a couple of free passes that set up a two-RBI triple by Aurel Mendiola; he scored himself off another error.

The Twins could only respond with one run in the bottom frame and left five runners stranded in the last two innings.

Comets' Babauta went 4-for-4 with two doubles, an RBI, and four runs.

Enforcers 11, Legals 2

The visiting JPO's DARE Program Enforcers gashed the Robert Torres

SUNRISERS

From Page 28

in as many games for the Sunrisers, putting them in a tie for first place with SCS Heavy Equipment Rental, while Navy Hill dropped to a 0-2 record.

The Sunrisers fell behind by as much as 26 points in the second quarter and was still facing a big deficit at the end of the third canto, 56-74, when they made a rally in the fourth and final frame. The Sunrisers outgunned Navy Hill in the payoff period, 31-12, behind the hot 3-point shooting of Preston Basa, who exploded for 15 points in that quarter and hit four triples.

The former Saipan Southern High School mainstay scored the Sunrisers' last five points in the regulation to send the game in overtime, while Navy Hill made four free throws in the home-stretch to foil the Sunrisers' bid to win the game outright.

Then in overtime, Basa was scoreless, but Jawn Joyner and Pete Lizama were there to delivered the goods for the Sunrisers. Joyner nailed six straight points, while Lizama added four, as the Sunrisers outscored Navy Hill, 13-8. The Sunris-

ers' 13th point came from Josh Sablan's triple at the buzzer, while Navy Hill had only Marvin Rabauliman making more than one field goal in overtime. Bruce Berline and J.R. Barrios had only one basket each in the extension period.

At the end of the match, the Sunrisers had three players scoring 20-plus points with Joyner having 24 and Lizama and Basa contributing 22 and 20, respectively. The Sunrisers also finished the game with 10 triples, six more than Navy Hill's total.

Navy Hill drew two treys from Barrios in the opening canto for a 27-19 lead and it continued to dominate the game in the next three quarters behind Rabauliman and Barrios' baskets before the Sunrisers made the move in the fourth to steal the win.

Rabauliman led Navy Hill's losing cause with his 24 points.

In the second game, Andhok's Grille also leaned on its fourth-quarter uprising to clobber defending champion Blue Haus, 92-69.

Andhok's was ahead by only nine after the third period, 69-60, when it pulled away in the fourth after holding Blue Haus to nine markers in the final canto. Reymark Castro and Gino

Recreation has been in charge of the maintenance and operation of the Oleai facilities. DSR has been the caretaker of the complex for more than two decades, although NMASA should be doing this task as per Public Law 4-66. However, Executive Order 94-3 put NMASA under the wing of DSR.

Now, through Tebuteb's bill, NMASA is hoping to get the independence and funds it needed to operate

IT&E 9, A's 2

Visiting IT&E took an early 2-0 lead in the top of the first, but the A's got a run back in the bottom of the second. After going 1-2-3 to start the second, IT&E shot ahead, 7-0, in the third inning. Their first four batters reached on three hits and a bean ball and scored with the help of some wild throws; the final run came in off an error.

IT&E then finished strong, adding a run in the fourth and fifth innings and going on to hold the A's to just one run in its final stand.

IT&E's Ivan Seo batted 2-for-3 with two runs and a base on balls.

Twins 13, McDonald's 2

The visiting As Matius Twins jumped all over McDonald's and capped a stout mercy rule victory in four innings.

The Twins cranked five hits to build an early 4-0 lead in the first inning.

Then Twins trudged ahead 10-1 in the second inning off three hits and four walks.

Most of the runs scored off extra throws and perhaps some hesitation by an indecisive McDonald's defense.

McDonald's could not recover from the early battering and came up dry in its final stand after only grinding a run apiece in the second and third frames.

Libuw led the breakaway, combining for 16 of Andhok's 23 markers in the fourth frame.

Blue Haus' nine points in the fourth was its lowest in all four quarters, as its offense slowed down in the last three quarters after a 27-point production in the first. With the loss, the defending champions fell to a 1-1 record, the same mark Andhok's holds.

First Game

Sunrisers 99 – Joyner 27, Lizama 22, Basa 20, Sablan 17, Mendez 4, Deleon Guerrero 2.

Navy Hill Gunners 94 – Rabauliman 24, Barrios 21, Diaz 12, Mungcal 9, Berline 6, Ito 6, Tomokane 6, Gabaldon 6.

Scoring by quarters: 19-27, 38-60, 56-74, 86-86, 99-94.

Second Game

Andhok's Grille 92 – Castro 20, Libuw 17, Wesley 14, Artates 13, Capalad 11, Camacho 9, Llagas 4, Umalu 2.

Blue Haus 69 – Esdrelon 17, Camacho 17, Talania 8, Guiab 7, Sharry 6, Itaas 6, Tumaquip 4, Aquino 4.

Scoring by quarters: 24-27, 50-42, 69-60, 92-69.

the contested sports complex and support the various programs for CNMI athletes and officials.

White said the CNMI and NMASA cannot continue to ask athletes/coaches and their families to shoulder most of the cost of their participation in off-island tournaments.

White added that NMASA can do a better job in taking care of the complex.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	20	12	.625	—
Boston	15	15	.500	4
New York	16	16	.500	4
Toronto	9	23	.281	11
New Jersey	9	24	.273	11 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	25	7	.781	—
Orlando	20	12	.625	5
Atlanta	19	12	.613	5 1/2
Washington	7	24	.226	17 1/2
Charlotte	4	27	.129	20 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	25	8	.758	—
Indiana	19	12	.613	5
Milwaukee	13	18	.419	11
Cleveland	12	17	.414	11
Detroit	11	22	.333	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	22	9	.710	—
Dallas	20	12	.625	2 1/2
Memphis	18	14	.563	4 1/2
Houston	18	14	.563	4 1/2
New Orleans	7	23	.233	14 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	24	7	.774	—
Portland	17	15	.531	7 1/2
Denver	17	15	.531	7 1/2
Utah	15	15	.500	8 1/2
Minnesota	16	16	.500	8 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	19	10	.655	—
L.A. Lakers	18	13	.581	2
Phoenix	13	19	.406	7 1/2
Golden State	11	17	.393	7 1/2
Sacramento	10	21	.323</td	

For the Love of Volleyball Tournament



J.R. Gechig rifles over a big spike.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Linda Anastacio blasts an underhand serve.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A.J. Aguilar deals an overhand serve during the For the Love of Volleyball beach volleyball tournament held last Feb. 11 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.



Nick Gross times his jump for a spike.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Toni Yamada dives to save a dig.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tyce MISTER strategically places his overhand serve right down the middle.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Wilton Laniyo, left, jumps up for a spike.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Charnessa Lizama rears back for an overhand serve.



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Laurie Peterka fields a return.



Activity Schedule for February 21, 2012

TSL
Sports Complex
NMBA
NATIONAL MINIATURE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
(Morning practices)
6:30 PM to 9:30 PM
(Evening practices)

Gillette
MULTIPURPOSE GYMNASIUM

There are no scheduled events.



2012 Men's B Futsal League
6:30 PM
Shirley's vs. CTSI Puzakals
7:30 PM
Frosted Flakes vs.
News Makers



**Durant scores
51 as Thunder
top Nuggets**
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Saipan Tribune Sports

28 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Enforcers' Agda hammers 2 homers on opening day

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



JPO Enforcers' Kier Agda started off the 2012 Saipan Little League season for the Majors Division with a pair of homeruns in Game 2 of Saturday's opening day tripleheader at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Agda belted two home runs late in the match as JPO marched to an 11-2 victory over the Robert Torres Law Offices' Kagman Little Legals.



Cruz cruises to men's open singles win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roeslyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bobby Cruz dethroned Jeff Race after notching an 8-3 win in the men's singles finals of the 2012 White Coconut Tennis Classic yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Besides taking this year's championship in the men's singles, Cruz also avenged his semis loss to Race last year.

Race topped Cruz in the 2011 semis, 8-6, to arrange a finals duel against Peter Loyola, who eventually lost to the former in the title game, 6-8.

Cruz set up a finals showdown against his former Micronesian Games teammate after an 8-2 triumph over junior player Rafael Jones last Saturday. Race also downed a junior netter in Christian Miller, 8-4, to earn a return trip to the finals. Miller

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association is seeking the support of CNMI lawmakers for a bill that will allow NMASA to take



Lawmakers' support for Oleai Complex takeover sought

over the Oleai Sports Complex.

In his opening remarks during the 2011 NMASA Annual Sports Banquet last Thursday night at the Seaside Hall of the Saipan Grand Hotel, NMASA presi-



White

dent Michael White called on lawmakers to give the association the tools to do their job by signing into law House Bill 17-268.

Authored by Rep. Ramon A. Tebutep (R-Saipan), the bill

is titled the "Northern Marianas Sports Act," giving NMASA the powers and responsibilities in operating, maintaining, and regulating the sports facilities and fields within the Oleai Sports Complex in accordance with the terms and conditions of a memorandum to be executed

See CRUZ on Page 26

Bobby Cruz returns to Jeff Race during their men's singles title game in the 2012 White Coconut Tennis Classic yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

See LAWMAKERS on Page 26

In other results, the Rep. Joseph Guerrero Dandan Comets toppled the As Matusi Twins, 11-2, in the curtain raiser, while on Sunday IT&E bested Triple J Wholesale San Vicente A's, 9-2, and the Twins rebounded over McDonald's, 13-2.

Details of other games from the holiday weekend will be released later this week.

The season continues at Tan Ge Field on Saturday with the Legals taking on the Bank of

Saipan Red Sox at 9am followed by JPO against IT&E at noon; then the A's clash with the Natibui Tanapag Braves at 3pm.

Then on Sunday the Tanapag Falcons square off with the Twins 9am; McDonald's collides with the Comets at 12pm; and the IT&E Ol'Aces host the Rep. Ray Yumul Rays at 3pm.

Comets 11, Twins 2

Both pitchers struck out the side
See ENFORCERS on Page 26

A McDonald's runner safely steals second base as the As Matusi Twin shortstop loses his handle on the ball in Sunday's Saipan Little League Major Division matchup held at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Andhok's Grille's Reymark Castro pulls up for a jumper against Blue Haus defenders during their game in the DLX/Miller Lite caging last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Sunrisers gain share of lead; Andhok's win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Sunrisers shone bright in the fourth quarter and kept their momentum in overtime to eke out a come-from-behind 99-

94 win over the Navy Hill Gunners in the curtain-raiser of the 2nd Domino Lux International Fraternity/Miller Lite Basketball Invitational Friendship League last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The victory was the second
See SUNRISERS on Page 26

**Haas wins at
Riviera in stunning
conclusion**

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